



CONSCIOUS AND INTENTIONAL MINISTRY: MINISTRY TO ME

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 5:23

THE PASTOR'S PEN APRIL 7 2024

As a child growing up in church, I remember times when people were asked to participate in the opening devotion of afternoon programs. One person would quickly pick up a Bible and say, "I will read the scripture." Another person would rapidly shout, "I will lead the song." The unfortunate person who was not able to respond fast enough was left to pray the prayer.

Understanding that public speaking is usually ranked as the number one or two fear among snakes, spiders, height, darkness, airplanes, dogs and small spaces, I imagine that public praying is ten times worse.

There is much fear and anxiety associated with public praying specifically and there is much misinformation and distorted information regarding prayer in general. Far too many people today have developed their understanding of prayer from what they have seen on TV, YouTube, Facebook, Podcasts and other social media outlets. Unfortunately, those who talk about prayer through these channels generally have a motive of raising money versus raising people to a deeper level of intimacy with God through the development of their prayer life. This motivation causes and reinforces a distorted view of prayer.

For those who are sincere, many are sincere in their ignorance. They merely repeat what they have heard others say and have not taken the time and energy to research for themselves. Therefore, they express empty and meaningless clichés that are not theologically sound nor biblically accurate.

On one end of the spectrum, we have those who basically believe that we cannot rely on God. This belief is reinforced through the often quoted phrase, "God answers prayer, 'Yes, No and Wait.'" This is a long standing belief and is shared among churches all over the country. Several years ago, I hear a preacher share, "Man can plan, but God can unplan." That phrase suggests that God sits back and waits for me to stack my blocks the way that I want them. As soon as my blocks are stacked, God comes over and knocks them down. That is not how God operates. Even worse, after the minister shared that statement, people in the congregation shouted, "Amen."

On the other end of the spectrum, there are those who have subscribed to a theology that basically believes that we do not need God. This theology teaches that we can speak things into the atmosphere. My question is, "What is the atmosphere going to do with it when it receives it?" This theology also supports speaking things into existence and declaring and decreeing things to be. My challenge with this is, "If I can speak things into the atmosphere or speak things into existence, I do not need God. As well, if I can declare and decree things to be, again, I do not need God"

Through this sermon series, I will press against and push back on the beliefs that some have shared over the years that are not theologically sound nor biblically accurate. You will be encouraged to: 1. Address the bad theology that you may have received regarding prayer. 2. Move beyond the well-established clichés and popular phrases that you have heard. 3. Develop a theology and view of prayer that is more consistent with the Bible.

Through this series, may we understand that God did not give us prayer so that we could come and ask for things. God gave us prayer so that we could establish and nurture an intimate and personal relationship with Him.

WORK FOR THE WEEK

APRIL MEMORY VERSE

²² And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.

Matthew 21:22

APRIL MEDITATION QUOTES

“I’m going to hold steady on You, an’ You’ve got to see me through.”

Harriet Tubman

“Oh, God, you know I have no money, but you can make the people do for me, and you must make the people do for me. I will never give you peace till you do, God.”

Sojourner Truth

TODAY’S STUDY QUESTIONS AND MEDITATION:

How have I previously understood prayer? _____

Am I open to establishing and nurturing a relationship with God through prayer? _____

FOR THE YOUTH

Ask your parents and/or grandparents to teach you the Lord's Prayer _____

The Pilgrim Rest Oasis

Sharing the Faith · Securing the Future

Through faith God has given us the space to be an oasis in the middle of the city.

An oasis is a fertile spot in the desert where refuge, relief, and refreshment is found.

Be part of God's plan for Pilgrim Rest and this community.

Start contributing to the Oasis today!
Let's continue to make progress!



Thank you for your continued support of God's plan for us.

Beginning



Current

Your contribution can be dedicated to a specific activity or the Oasis, in general.

	Educational Enrichment	Technology Literacy	Athletics & Recreation	Performing Arts	Facility Innovation
\$500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 Subject books for elementary (math, literature, history, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 iPad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 basketballs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 art sets for aspiring artists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External security lighting to keep the street well-lit and safe
\$1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 Summer Bridge books to help students retain learning during breaks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 "learn how to code" kits for elementary students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 tennis rackets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 beginner saxophones or 8 beginner violins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camera security system to keep everyone safe
\$2,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 students can be challenged to excel using interactive problem-solving programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 computer for graphic design and website creation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 sets of golf clubs for children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 Play Scripts with performance/licensing fee and cast instructions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wireless PA system to easily communicate at the school
\$5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 smartboard to help teachers engage students in learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 STEM lab cart of materials for a classroom with multiple activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3-day Speed and Agility workshop for 15 young aspiring track stars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 pairs of tap shoes for aspiring dancers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Battery operated floor scrubber to keep the building looking its best
\$10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 trip for 15 students to visit 1 HBCU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 Robotic kits to reinforce studies in STEAM subjects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open gym for 20 young people 1 X a week throughout the winter in a safe place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 200 tickets to see Alvin Ailey Dance Company 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LED light fixtures throughout the school to promote learning and natural light