

WELCOME TO WORD OF FAITH LIFE GROUPS

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER

LIFE GROUP LESSON PLAN

The Ephesians Prayer of Revelation” Pt. 11

Thursday, December 22, 2022 – 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Teaching The Bible Through Practical Biblical Teaching

VIP Silver Saints - Conference Call # (717) 908-1834 – Dial *6 to Mute

OPENING PRAYER (5 MINUTES)

WELCOME TO OUR GROUP (5 MINUTES)

If this is your first time joining us, please introduce yourself! We are glad you took the time to join us today. Our group has four purposes:

1. **L... Learning together from God's Word**
2. **I... Interceding through prayer**
3. **F... true Fellowship in the Spirit of Christ**
4. **E...Evangelizing the lost**

PRAISE & WORSHIP (5 MINUTES)

FACILITATION OF LESSON

Sermon Title: *“The Ephesians Prayer of Revelation,” Pt. 11*

POINT I

A major reason faith is important is because it is the victory! The Apostle John, the Apostle of Love, presented this truth in his first epistle, **1 John 5:4** where it states, *“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”* The definition of *“Victory”* in this verse is *“a means of success by which we conquer the world.”*

The last three words, *“even our faith,”* could read *“even our confidence, assurance, conviction, and persuasion”* regardless of who you are, where you live, or where you come from. If you have faith in God and his Word you can overcome anything you are dealing with in the world’s system.

QUESTION

1. Why is faith so important?

If you have taken the COVID-19 shot out of a lack of knowledge or just out of fear, Now is the time when your faith is even more important. The bible tells us in **1 John 1:9**, *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* Once you’ve asked God for

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forgiveness for moving too quickly, whether out of fear of losing your job or out of fear of even losing your life, He is faithful and just to forgive you of your sins, and He will cleanse you from all unrighteousness. You still have to confess it!

QUESTION

1. Why is it still necessary to repent of your sin before God if you have received the COVID-19 vaccine?

POINT II

Hebrews 10:21 states, “*And having an high priest over the house of God.*” You have a high priest who went before God with His blood and acquitted you of all your wrongdoings and bad decisions. And now, like Paul says in the next verse, **Hebrews 10:22**, “*Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.*” In other words, what’s done is done. Now you just have to walk by faith! Now you have to wash this body with the pure water of the Word.

QUESTION

1. Once you have acknowledged your sins, poor decisions and bad choices, what must you realize?

If you’ve got God’s Word, you’ve got God, and if you’ve got God, you’ve got His Word. Paul expressed the power of God and his Word in **Romans 1:16**, “*For I am not ashamed of the gospel [Good News Or Good Report] of Christ: [The Anointed One and His Anointing] for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.* The word “power” is “*dunamis*” in the original Greek text. It means *miraculous power and miraculous ability*. There is power in the Word of God! Miraculous power! The Gospel, the Good News about Jesus in the Word, is the Power of God, unto salvation.

QUESTION

1. Why is it important to know that you know you have God’s Word?

The word “*salvation*” in the Greek is the word “*soteria*.” And the word “*soteria*” means *rescue, safety, deliverance, and health*. The Word of God has supernatural ability for anyone, anywhere and for anything. Paul mentioned two ethnic groups in **Romans 1:16**, Jews and Greeks. However, from his point of view, these two groups represented the entire world in his day. In other words, the gospel has supernatural ability to rescue, and keep you regardless of your nationality, family lineage, or skin color.

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This also implies that you must have faith in God and faith in God’s word regardless of your nationality, family background or skin color. God is not a respecter of person’s, but he is a respecter of faith!

QUESTION

1. Is God a respecter of persons? Why or Why not?

Let’s continue to answer the question, “*What is faith?*” A key verse in the study of faith is **Hebrews 11:1** which states, “*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*” Moffatt’s Translation of this verse reads, “*Now faith means that we are confident of what we hope for, convinced of what we do not see.*” Another Translation reads, “*Faith is giving substance to things hoped for.*” Still another Translation reads, “*Faith is the warranty deed, the thing for which we have finally hoped is at last ours.*” Here God is telling us what faith is.

There are different kinds of faith for example everyone, saved and unsaved alike, has a natural, human faith. This **Hebrews 11:1** is talking about a supernatural faith, a faith that believes with the heart rather than believing what your physical senses may tell you. Faith, in other words, is *grasping the unrealities of hope and bringing them into the realm of reality.* And faith grows out of the Word of God. **Hebrews 11:1** in the King James Version describes faith as *the evidence of things not seen.*

QUESTION

1. After reading God’s definition of faith what is faith to you?
2. What is the difference between natural faith and supernatural faith?

Let’s examine this examples of:

- You hope for finances to meet the obligations you must pay. Faith gives the assurance that you will have the money when you need it.
- You hope for strength to do the work that you must do. Faith says, **Psalms 27:1**, “*The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*”

Faith will say about itself everything that the Word says. Faith will give substance to that which you hope for. Hope says, “*I’ll have it sometime.*” Faith says, “*I have it now!*”

QUESTIONS:

1. Can you give some examples of faith after reading these examples?

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POINT III

What is the difference between substitute faith and heart faith? John Wesley once said, *“The devil has given the church a substitute for faith, one that looks like faith and sounds a lot like faith.”* That’s what we were talking about when we mentioned unfeigned faith and feigned faith. Few people can tell the difference between substitute faith and heart faith. John Wesley called substitute faith, mental ascent. Many people read God’s Word and agree that it’s true, but they are agreeing only with their minds. And that is not what gets the job done. It is heart faith that receives from God. **Mark 11:23-24** states, *“For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.”* The question is? How can we tell whether we have heart faith or whether we are just mentally agreeing?

Mental ascent says, *“I know God’s word is true. I know God has promised healing, but for some reason I can’t get it; I can’t understand it.”* However, real faith in God’s Word says, *“If God’s word says it’s so, then it’s so. It is mine. I have it now. I have it even though I can’t see it.”*

QUESTIONS

1. What is the difference between faith and heart faith?
2. Give an example of mental ascent verses real faith!

People will say, but the thing I’ve been praying about hasn’t come to pass yet. If you already, had it you wouldn’t have to believe it, for then you would know it. You have to take that step of faith of receiving and believing in order to come to the place of knowing. Too many people want to know it from the standpoint of its coming to pass and then believe it. We must believe it because God’s Word says its ours. Then it materializes!

QUESTIONS

1. When will what we’ve been praying for materialize?

POINT IV

Too many Christians have Thomas faith when they should have Abraham’s faith. What is Thomas’ faith? In John 20:24-29, *“24 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe. 26 And after eight days again his disciples were within, and*

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Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. 27 Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. 28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. 29 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.”

Why did Thomas find it hard to believe Jesus was alive? Thomas knew of the nails that pierced Jesus hands and the spear that was thrust into his side. His physical senses told him Jesus was dead. Thomas was using head knowledge, rather than heart faith.

QUESTIONS

1. What is Thomas faith?

Compare Thomas’ faith with the faith of Abraham. Let’s read **Romans 4:17-21** where it states, “*(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, According to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara’s womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.*

Notice the difference in Thomas faith and Abraham’s faith. Thomas had only natural, human faith which said, “*I’m not going to believe unless I can see and feel.*” Abraham, however, believed God’s Word, considering not his own body or his own natural senses. If Abraham didn’t consider the physical knowledge of feelings, what did he consider? The Word of God!

QUESTION

1. What is the difference between Thomas’ faith and Abraham’ faith?

If you’re suffering from any physical ailment, the Lord is reminding you of Abraham, who considered not his own body. Don’t consider your body, but rather you should consider God’s Word. Go over those healing scriptures over and over again. Eventually those symptoms will leave! Too many times we focus our attention on the wrong thing. We consider our physical body and the symptoms rather than looking to God’s Word.

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QUESTION

1. If you are dealing with a physical ailment, what should you consider? How do you deal with them?

Some people misunderstand this type of teaching, thinking we’re telling people to deny all symptoms and go on as if they weren’t there. They think we’re teaching Christian Science. This is not Christian Science; this is Christian sense. We do not deny pains and other symptoms, for they are very real. Instead, we look beyond them to God’s promises. Real faith in the Word of God says, *“If God says it so, it is so.” If he says, “by whose stripes we were healed,” I am healed. “Regardless of how I feel!”*

If He says, *“My God shall supply all your need,”* He does! Regardless of the balance of your bank account. If He says, *“The Lord is the strength of my life,”* He is! Regardless of how difficult things seem to be. In other words, real faith simply says about oneself what the Word says. Real faith is built on the Word. We should meditate on the Word, dig deeply into it, and feed upon it. Then the Word becomes a part of us, just as natural food becomes a part of our physical body when we eat. What natural food is to the physical man, the Word of God is to the spiritual man. The Word builds confidence and assurance in us.

QUESTION

1. In teachings like this; are we denying the physical facts? What are we doing?
2. What does real faith say? What is the progression of real faith?

CALL - TIME OF DECISION (EVERYONE BOW YOUR HEADS)

PRAISE REPORTS - *2-MINUTES PER PERSON

PRAYER FOCUS / INDIVIDUAL PRAYER REQUEST (10 MINUTES)

Prayer focus:

- 1) Your Circle (friends and family)
- 2) Life Group members
- 3) Word of Faith Leadership:
 - a. Pastor Ronald D. Walker, Jr., Evangelist Sharon L. Walker, Minister Promise Walker, Brittany and Christian, Carmelo and the ministerial staff.
 - b. Bishop Keith A. Butler and Pastor Deborah Butler

Have you reached out to your circle today?

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ANNOUNCEMENTS (5 MINUTES)

1. Join the SWAT Team for their next outing Saturday, **December 24th**. Prayer begins promptly at 11:00 am. For more information contact Minister Julie Francis.
2. Join us for Christmas Day Service, **Sunday, December 25th at 10:00 am**. Come and hear a dynamic Word from our Pastor. You don't want to miss it!
3. Join us for a Night of Prayer, **Friday, December 30th at 6:30 p.m.** Let pray in the new year together.
4. Join us for **New Year's Day Service, Sunday, January 1, 2023 at 10:00 am**. Join us as we hear the word of the Lord for 2023 from our Bishop.
5. Mark your Calendars for **30 Days of Prayer** from **Monday, January 2nd to Tuesday, January 31st**.
 - a. Visit **pray30.org** or text **PRAY** to **248-266-9990** to receive the daily devotionals right to your inbox.
 - b. Watch or Read the Daily Devotionals and Pray at Least 30 Minutes Daily.

Our youth are invited to follow **youthpray30** on **Instagram** and **subscribe** to the channel on **YouTube**

c. In addition, the youth videos will be posted on the **pray30.org/ignite** website page

Children's Ministry will have special lessons for the month and a ZOOM meet up every Saturday from 12:00 Noon – 12:30 Noon EST.

6. Join us for Early Morning Prayer, **Monday- Friday from 6:00 am - 7:00 am** and Saturday's at 10:00 am. Join us on the Miracle Line on Tuesday's and Thursday's at 11:00 am by conference call, Facebook, YouTube and the Word of Faith Website. The call-in number for the Early Morning Prayer and the Miracle Line is (717) 908-1834, access code 755875#.
7. Then Join us for Noon Day Prayer, with Evangelist Sharon Walker. Join us for 1-hour to pray. This is an In-person Prayer Service at Word of Faith.
8. Monetary donations are being accepted to be a blessing to those truly in need. When making your donation to please write **"Gift for WOFICC CARES."** **WOFICC CARES** about our church family! **WOFICC CARES** about our community! **WOFICC CARES** about the Islands of the Caribbean!

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OFFERING

- <https://wordoffaithstthomas.com/give-online/>
- <https://www.givelify.com/>

CLOSING PRAYER & DISMISSAL
