
Sunday, January 21, 2018
Did You Know?

Quiet Time Prayers

In the past, I've shared that we can pray this simple and powerful prayer before we begin our devotions or quiet times: "Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law." (**Psalm 119:18**) I commend this prayer to everyone. Yet, if you're like me, you find that each morning your heart is, often times, in different states. Sometimes I find myself eager to meet with God, but more times than I wish to admit, I find my desires to meet with God much too weak. As I was praying last week, I prayed the first prayer, but then I thought about what kind of prayer I should pray when I'm not 'feeling' God. I wrote down a few, which I hope will be helpful to you.

"Lord, I'm eager to meet with you this morning. I'm rested and alert. Please meet with me. There's nothing I'd rather do right now than to have this time with you. I come to you not because I'm worthy, but because of Christ and the grace, mercy and acceptance I have because of him. Speak, Lord, through your Word; your servant is listening."

Or

"Lord, I don't really feel like meeting with you this morning. I'm tired. I have a lot on my mind and I'm busy, but here I am. Would you please meet with me despite my hardened heart? Though I don't feel it in my heart, I know in my head that what I need more than any other thing today is you. Speak to me through your Word. Allow it to go deep within me. Draw me close to you and allow me to truly sense your presence. Help me Lord."

Or

"Lord, it's been so long since we've spent quality time together and for that, I am sorry. Please forgive me for neglecting our relationship that you made possible through the Gospel -- that is through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Here I am Lord; I don't know if I'm ready to meet with you, but I know that you want to meet with me. I know that you are my Father, and I am your child. I know that you love me. I know that not meeting with you doesn't make you love me less, as I know that meeting with you doesn't make you love me more. The full measure of your love was shown to me in Jesus. So Lord, I need your help. Bring me back to you. Strengthen and deepen our relationship beginning right now. Allow your Word to come alive and pierce my heart."

When we pray, we are to do it with sincerity, but we are also to pray in faith. One way to pray in faith is to pray the truth of God's Word and his promises. Just because we're not feeling that God's Word and promises are true, doesn't make them not true. They remain true whether we feel them or not, whether we believe them or not. That is why we must pray the truth of God's Word both when we're excited to meet God, and perhaps even more when we're not so motivated.

I am praying for you, our members, to grow in prayer in 2018.

Soli Deo Gloria.

Pastor Peter