

receive, that your joy may be full.

We can agree that those are powerful words from Jesus our savior. Prayer is the way that God connects with his children. It is his desire to connect with us. When we pray we are denying the carnal nature of man to rule, and we are walking in the Spirit of God. When we do that we are better equipped to make Christ-like decisions.

1 Corinthians 2:14 - 16 (KJV) ¹⁴But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵But **he that is spiritual judgeth all things**, yet he himself is judged of no man. ¹⁶For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But **we have the mind of Christ.**

When you pray, you are putting away the old nature of man, and you are putting on the Lord Jesus Christ. Satan knows that if he can get you into making deci-

sions from your human nature side, instead of your born again side, that your own thoughts and actions will trap you into bad decisions.

Put an end to prayerlessness!

Determine everyday to pray! Set aside a time of day and specific prayer needs and a time of worship and adoration to the Lord. Keep a journal of your prayer time. You will experience a great awakening of your spirit as it connects with the Holy Spirit.

I feel a strong urging of the Holy Spirit to get his people to pray. My prayer is that Faith Christian Center will remain and even become a stronger house of prayer. Three times in the gospels Jesus said, My house shall be called a house of prayer.

May God bless you this month. May your prayer life go to a new level. I hope you discover the power that is found in prayer.

Blessings upon blessings,
Pastor Chris

Faith Christian Center
1360 Roosevelt Dr.
Silsbee, TX 77656



Faith Christian Center Connect

Volume 5

May 2008

Connecting to God through prayer



Have you ever stopped and wondered how many people you are connected to? I have friends that have friends so that connect me with them. Think of internet sites such youtube, and others that connects people with one another.

We live in a society that wants to connect. In business meetings, usually at the close, you hear men and women exchange information followed by a "we have to get together and connect."

The name of our newsletter is *Faith Christian Center Connect*.

It is important to note that for a fulfilled Christian walk and life, we must learn how to connect with God. When we are connected our lives are more fulfilled and anointed. It is the anointing of God that destroys every yoke and burden of the enemy.

We need to connect to God! I have found that one of the biggest battles with Christians today is that Satan battles our prayer lives. When is the last time you got into the Spirit and prayed for 45 minutes to an hour? Understand that the amount of time is not important; however I have found that when I start praying being led by the Spirit, I find it hard to stop praying.

On the other hand, I have faced times when it was almost impossible to begin to pray. When this happens Satan and his demonic army are engaged in warfare to keep you from praying. You may not be-

At a Glance

Sunday

Adult Sunday School	9:15am
Youth Sunday School	9:15am
Sunday Service	10:30am
Session 5 ISOM	5:00pm

Monday

Session 3 ISOM	On Break
----------------	----------

Tuesday

Skateboard Club	6:30pm
-----------------	--------

Wednesday

Wednesday Service	7:00pm
-------------------	--------

lieve it, but you would be better off if you did.

A praying Christian is a powerful Christian.

Let's look at Jesus' attitude on prayer.

Mark 11:24 - 26 (KJV) ²⁴*Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, **when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.***

²⁵*And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.* ²⁶*But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.*

John 16:23 - 25 (KJV) ²³And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Whatever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.** ²⁴Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: **ask, and ye shall**

continued on back cover

Doing The Same Old Thing: In A Brand New Way!

Just a Note

Faith Christian Center Worship Department

What if the Music really did Fade?

When the music fades
All is stripped away
And I simply come
Longing just to bring
Something that's of worth
That will bless Your heart

- Matt Redman

“...that will bless *Your* heart?”

“Whoa, Whoa- Wait... isn't it supposed to be “that will bless *my* heart” and nobody, I mean *nobody*, better fade my music or stripped it away- unless it's like one of those stripped-down acoustic records that Chris Tomlin and everybody is doing- then that's ok. I mean that Chris Tomlin can just lead me into the presence of the Lord like nobody else can. And where am I going and what am I bringing- I thought worship, today, was to make me feel...you know.... Good? After all, worship is all about the music.”

Before I go any further, I love Chris Tomlin. He is an anointed and gifted songwriter. (I want you all to finish the newsletter) J

This little monologue was just to illustrate some of the mindsets that run around in church; and if we're honest some of the mindsets that *we* have. Volume, Pitch, Style- it all plays a part in the worship experience- but shouldn't that experience have more to do with the One we're trying to get close to rather than the means in which we pursue Him?

I'll restate the question: Does the “worship” music get in the way of our true calling and (creation) for intimate fellowship with our Maker?

What would happen, if at Faith Christian Center, I came in and sat on one of the stage benches and said “Ok, today guys, we're just going to lift our voice to the Lord in song” Most of us would readily go for it- singing our “new song” and then after a couple of seconds (that seemed like minutes) we would stop and wait for those first few notes to be played. Where's the music? What's going on? When's the *real* worship going to start?

Most of us automatically equate worship with music. In today's culture, it's extremely hard not to. “Worship” has exploded on to the music scene. It is now one of the fastest and biggest selling genres in the Christian music industry.

But is it really a genre?

Webster's dictionary states that worship is extravagant respect or admiration for or devotion to an object of esteem or worthiness, respect, reverence paid to a divine being.

Worship has nothing to do with music. It has everything to do with the heart.

I think we still know that but we have but that on the back burner for now because worship is just the “it” thing to do. I don't want this to come off as a rant (because it's not) but rather I want us to really take an introspective look at ourselves and our walk with Christ to see if some things are standing in the way of truly worshipping the Lord.

Our worship team gets together before every service and prays. One of the main things that I try to drive home to our team during that time is that we don't just worship God for all the great things He has done for us (although that should get you started) but we have to worship Him because of **who He is!** That's what it's all about. God is so great and powerful. He's a provider, a healer, a protector, a comforter- The only One that knows exactly what we need, when we need it. Ah! And because He **is** all those things- He does great things for us. Sometimes, I think we lose focus on worship really is all about.

We worry about the latest and the greatest. The bigger- the better. The more guitar solos the better. The more dynamic voice.... You get what I'm saying.

Bob Klaufin, a fellow worship leader wrote this about the danger of creativity and music in the church: “We're [the church is] convinced that some fresh, different, never-been-done-before idea will make our congregational worship more effective. Or powerful. Or appealing. Maybe it's lighting...or a new stage set up...or a video clip...or candles...or banners... or “interactive artistic activity.” Creativity is never our goal in worshipping God. It's simply a means to the end of displaying and seeing the glory of Christ more clearly. New forms or mediums of communication can give us a different perspective, causing the truth to have a greater impact on us. But if we walk away from a time of corporate worship more affected by our creativity than our Savior, or think that the Word of Christ is old news, God help us.”

When all of those things fade away...the microphones, the powerpoint slides, the music- we get down to the heart of the matter- the heart.

EVERY time we walk in that sanctuary door we need to remember:

It's not about us.

It's not about Justin Kirkendall, other worship team members, or Chris Tomlin.

It's not about the songs that you like.

It's not about the stage.

It's not about the people on the stage or in the pew next to you.

It's not about whether you feel like clapping or lifting your hands

(Look up Psalms 47:1)

It's not based on how your day went before church.

It's not based on your circumstances or your bank account.

It's about a manger

It's about a Man teaching us The Way

It's about that blood stained Cross.

It's about the thorns.

It's about a crown

It's about forgiveness

It's about death....and life.

It's about victory.

It's about seeing Him face to face.

King David said this in **Psalms 47:6** “Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.”

Four times in one verse- he told us to sing! Four Times! Just in case we didn't get it the first three. You don't have to have a phenomenal singing voice- you don't even have to have an “OK” singing voice- the Lord of Heaven and Earth just wants to hear you sing.

I want to challenge Faith Christian Center to become radical worshippers, not politically correct believers, who don't want to offend the person next to them with their “joyful noise”. Don't wait till I do something radical- Do you realize how hard it is to keep time, sing, and play the piano- I don't think I'm going to be able to jump around...but who knows. J

2 Corinthians 3:17 “Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.”

We're a Full Gospel church which means that you are free to dance, jump, kneel, shout, clap, sing, and worship God with everything you've got in you.

Biblical Foundations in Adult Sunday school

Adult Sunday school has been moving along in the Biblical Foundations class. Since the last newsletter we have covered All Can Be Saved, Water Baptism, Victorious Living, and Baptism in the Holy Spirit. If you have missed any, sign up for a cd. In May, we will be covering Gifts of the Holy Spirit, Divine Healing, The Lord's Supper, and The Church.

My concern lately has been the cares of this life. Today's culture has fewer employees' doing more work, a fast pace for everything; no quiet time, and the cell phone can reach you anywhere. Everything demands our attention in the current climate: work, family, friends, and the demands of this life. All this takes us away from our relationship with Christ. It is not that which we are doing is necessarily evil, but it takes us away from the one most important thing in our lives and alters our priorities.

“Mark 4: 18Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; 19but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. 20Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown.”

The worries of this world many times keep us from applying God's word. Many times Satan only has to distract us to get the victory. We keep our eyes on the problem, not the solution. If we don't apply God's word, we won't have the victory:

“Mark 4: 23If any man have ears to hear, let him hear. 24And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given. 25For he that hath, to him shall be given: and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath.”

The word said right there in Mark 4:24, that to what measure you apply God's word, that is the measure you will receive the fruit of it.

God doesn't require us to worship Him- He created with a free will just like Adam and Eve. Keep in mind that although we have a free will, He DID create us to worship Him.

Let's give God what He longs for.

Let's give all our Praise, worship, adoration and affection to Him.

Let's keep on worshipping....long after the music fades.

Sing it Loud!

Justin Kirkendall

Worship Pastor

Faith Christian Center

Here are some Scriptural References about all the different aspects of worship:

Worship: Psalms 29:2, 95:6, 99:9

Singing: Psalms 13:6, 18:49, 57:9, 59:17, 96:1, 104:33, 146:2

Clapping: Psalms 47:1

Shouting: Psalms 20:5, 47:1, 66:1, 98:4, 100:1



Luke 8:15 says that we have to bring forth the fruit with patience or as the NIV says bring forth the fruit with perseverance. Jesus also warns us about this in Luke. Luke 21: 33Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. 34“Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. 35For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. 36Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

What I am trying to say is, we need to find time for the cares of this world, **not find time for Jesus!** Our relationship with God is our priority. We shouldn't have to find time for God. He should be first on our schedule. If we take care of that, everything else will be taken care of: marriages will get better, jobs will get better, finances will get better, and our children will get better. Our life will be better.

Matthew 6:33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Be like the Bereans: Acts 17:11 Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, **for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.** **Do you search the scriptures everyday to see if what you have learned is true?**

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

~Bro. Brian Neumann