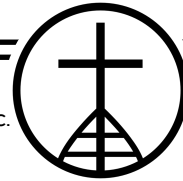


PULPIT CURRICULUM

The Marks of a Good Church: Fellowship with God

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

May 5, 2024 – Adam Ashoff



Prayer & Praise: Pray for the all the upcoming Student & College Ministry related events, i.e. kicking off the summer with new 6th graders coming up to MS, college kids coming home, inviting friends, etc.

Ice-breaker/Summary: As you have thought on these verses this week, how do you connect the ideas of joy, prayer & gratitude to fellowship with God?

Consistent Joy (v.16)

George Mueller's quote: *"the first great & primary business to which I attend every day is to have my soul happy in the Lord"* is a great encouragement but also can seem an unattainable ideal. How do you seek to do this in your own life, and if/when you don't, what might it look like for you to attempt it?

Constant Prayer (v.17)

What are the areas of life that are difficult to be persistent in prayer over? As you think on that, is it the issue itself or is it your lack of persistence that makes it difficult?

Donald Whitney's quote: *"at other times God wants us to persist in prayer in order to strengthen our faith in Him"* is awesome, and a good heart check. How have you seen God build your faith through persistence in prayer?

Comprehensive Gratitude (v.18)

What are ways you have spurred on thankfulness in your heart when you are in a 'dry time' of gratitude?

Think back to Asaph's words in Psalm 50. Why is understanding God's desire for a 'sacrifice of thanksgiving' at the heart of His will for us in Christ Jesus?

Mutual Ministry: It's not often we might get provoked to examine "ingratitude" in our hearts. Are there any areas in your life you can identify an ungrateful spirit?

*The things you pray about are the things you trust God to handle.
The things you neglect to pray about are the things you trust you can handle on your own.*

HB Charles Jr