

August 20, 2014

EXTREME FAITH

A prayer life
changes
your
life!

Name:

Take me home!



How
has
Prayer
shaped
you?

LIFE...

How has prayer shaped you?

We love to ask the question, who are you? We know that's a difficult question to answer. But it is a very important question. When you know who you are then you know what is shaping you! Tonight we are focusing on prayer and how it shapes you. If your life is shaped by prayer than you are on your way to knowing who you are and who you were made to be! Prayer is one of the greatest things we have the privilege to participate in. We all can talk to God! We all have the ability to impact the world and our surroundings with prayer. When you pray you are being shaped and you are also seeing the world around you shaped. When you pray you are standing in front of your God, and He hears you and He loves you. Have you ever seen direct answers to your prayers? When we see our prayers answered we are shaped and changed. Our faith increases and grows in us. Yes there are times when we don't see our prayers answered in the way that we wanted them to be answered we may feel like our prayer was not answered at all. But believe me your prayer was heard and answered. You were shaped because of that experience. Our prayer life is so important, it shapes us from the inside out. What do we

receive because we pray? We receive and learn God's will for our life. It allows God to have an avenue into our hearts. It grows our relationship with Him. It grows us and increases our faith. Check out this verse, it lets us see how God wants us to respond to life. **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**
16 Be joyful always; 17 pray continually; 18 give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Wow how in the world are we able to do that? Prayer, when we pray and go before God with everything we are given hope that He is with us in everything that we face. If he is with us what in the world would we every be afraid of. What trouble would we ever have that we can't face! If we were to live this way then we could say that prayer is shaping us and growing us in awesome ways. I really like this verse because it does not give us any room to wiggle. There is no either or we are just to follow this verse and live this way! We are to follow this despite how we feel or what emotions are leading us to do. We are to be shaped by this verse and our prayers are to be continuous. Think how your life would be different if you lived by this verse? Just give a thought and keep reading...

Living Extreme means...

We have to think about extreme, what is extreme to you? Might not be extreme to someone else. But you have been invited to live, life to the full! John 10:10 speaks this truth to us. But it is an invitation, not a guarantee. You have to take action to experience the life to the full. You have to want it and you have to be willing to be extreme. If you go after it you will receive it but it will not be forced on you. So what is extreme to you? How do you define extreme?

It could be said that extreme is something that is so bold and challenging that only the courageous individuals will attempt it. So with that being said are you extreme? Are you bold enough to trust God with everything, so much that you will pray about everything and run after what He has called you to run after? Our relationship with God is just that a relationship. We have to stay connected for a relationship to grow, it is hard to be connected to someone whom you never talk to. We have to be extreme so that we can show the world that God loves them and desires for each of them to know Him. Nothing is more extreme than living a full and abundant life! It is offered to you, just look to Him and never look back!

Would you rather...?

...take a bath or a shower?

...give or receive?

...pray in front of all of your friends or live in a country where it is illegal to pray?

CHARACTER

Understanding prayer and well verses like 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 is not the easiest thing to do. But they are not suppose to be just understood. We have to search them out, we have to think on them and think on them. We need to have a character that seeks them out. We need to live out wanting it all, and running after it at all cost. We must never stop running after Him!

DIG IN

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

16 Be joyful always; 17 pray continually; 18 give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Think About it...

(Prayer Impact)

What impact does your prayer have on the world around you? Have you ever thought about that? You should because your prayer can have a ton of impact on the world around you. Prayer is so powerful and impactful, we have to see that our communication with God is key and that our God, our Father listens to us. If you pray than you need to believe that completely and then pray with authority, not wondering if God hears you but knowing that He hears you.

This week we are challenging you to pray and then look for the answer or the change in the thing that you are praying for. You will be amazed what you hear and what you see when you pray and then expect and look for the answer. I mean lets be honest you don't text people and then not expect them to text you back. No you text them and expect that they will get back in touch with you. That is why you text them in the first place. Far to many times we pray and then we don't expect anything, we don't look for anything. We just pray and that is it.

God wants so much more, He wants us to seek Him out He wants us to run after Him. We are to pray and then actually expect that He will do something. We have to believe that He is King and that He will provide for us. He will guide us and lead us. If we don't even expect anything to happen then we are wasting our breath in prayer. So take a look at the list below and give it a try this week.

Steps To Pray with Expectation:

1. Pray and seek out God, lay your request and needs out to Him.
Believe with all of your faith that He will come through!
Pray for family, friends, people who need to know Jesus
pray for the things that are on your heart, things that are troubling you, thing you need help with.
2. Write down the key words of the things that you are praying for.
You don't have to write a ton, just some words to help you remember what you are looking out for.
3. Look for God to answer them look for God to come through and show you that He heard you and is answering your prayers. Look with expectation look with a desire and confidence that He is answering your prayers.
4. When you find or hear the answer go and check it off the list and give God some wonderful thanks and praise! Allow your faith to grow because of answered prayer!

Go for it don't be afraid to try! God wants you to expect Him to do what He says He will do. He will do it and you don't have to be perfect for Him to do it! You just have to go for it! Go for it and then bring some cool stories back to us!

Finish this Sentence:

(Fill in the blank... How would you finish this sentence?)

***The biggest help in my prayer life has been...**

***Define prayer...**

***Do you think 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 is possible?**

***Why do you think this is God's will for you?**
