

Bay City Wesleyan Church
December 15, 2019

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Sunday Morning 12-15-2019

Jesus gives the greatest Christmas gifts of all time.

He gives faith to defeat fear.

Hope to drive out despair.

Love to expel apathy.

Peace to overwhelm worry.

Joy to replace powerlessness.

<http://bible.com/events/6724400>

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Our First Series of 2020

<https://imageproxy-cdn.youversionapi.com/320x320/https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/mushroom-event-images-prod/5722009-1576356534837.jpg>

Our First Series of 2020: The Spirit's Prayer Guide for Ordinary People

It seems like most people pray even if they aren't particularly religious. But we all struggle to pray. Ordinary people like you and I need all the help we can find. Let's smash our prayer struggles this year with a few simple practices.

Matthew 1:18-25 NIV

<small>18</small> This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about : His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. <small>19</small> Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. <small>20</small> But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <small>21</small> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." <small>22</small> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <small>23</small> "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). <small>24</small> When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <small>25</small> But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

<https://bible.com/bible/111/mat.1.18-25.NIV>

1 John 4:7-21 NIV

<small>7</small> Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <small>8</small> Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. <small>9</small> This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <small>10</small> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <small>11</small> Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <small>12</small> No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. <small>13</small> This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. <small>14</small> And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <small>15</small> If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. <small>16</small> And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. <small>17</small> This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. <small>18</small> There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. <small>19</small> We love because he first loved us. <small>20</small> Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. <small>21</small> And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

<https://bible.com/bible/111/1jn.4.7-21.NIV>

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 NLT

<small>1</small> If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <small>2</small> If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. <small>3</small> If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing. <small>4</small> Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud <small>5</small> or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. <small>6</small> It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. <small>7</small> Love never gives up, never loses faith,

is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. <small>8</small> Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless. But love will last forever! <small>9</small> Now our knowledge is partial and incomplete, and even the gift of prophecy reveals only part of the whole picture! <small>10</small> But when the time of perfection comes, these partial things will become useless. <small>11</small> When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things. <small>12</small> Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely. <small>13</small> Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.
<https://bible.com/bible/116/1co.13.1-13.NLT>

Sermon in a Sentence:

Love is a powerful gift that enables us to choose love; that gift is Jesus.