

Bay City Wesleyan Church
January 26, 2020

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Sunday Morning 01-26-2020

Series Big Idea and Invitation: It seems like most people pray even if they aren't particularly religious. But most of us 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 exercises.
<http://bible.com/events/7049404>

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Our First Series of 2020 Starts Next Sunday

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

Psalms 147:1-20 NIV

<small>1</small> Praise the Lord . How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise him!

<small>2</small> The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the exiles of Israel. <small>3</small> He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. <small>4</small> He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.

<small>5</small> Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit. <small>6</small> The Lord sustains the humble but casts the wicked to the ground. <small>7</small> Sing to the Lord with grateful praise; make music to our God on the harp.

<small>8</small> He covers the sky with clouds; he supplies the earth with rain and makes grass grow on the hills. <small>9</small> He provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they call. <small>10</small> His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the legs of the warrior; <small>11</small> the Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love. <small>12</small> Extol the Lord , Jerusalem; praise your God, Zion. <small>13</small> He strengthens the bars of your gates and blesses your people within you.

<small>14</small> He grants peace to your borders and satisfies you with the finest of wheat. <small>15</small> He sends his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly. <small>16</small> He spreads the snow like wool and scatters the frost like ashes.

<small>17</small> He hurls down his hail like pebbles. Who can withstand his icy blast? <small>18</small> He sends his word and melts them; he stirs up his breezes, and the waters flow. <small>19</small> He has revealed his word to Jacob, his laws and decrees to Israel. <small>20</small> He has done this for no other nation; they do not know his laws. Praise the Lord .

<https://bible.com/bible/111/psa.147.1-20.NIV>

Romans 8:18-27 NIV

<small>18</small> I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. <small>19</small> For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. <small>20</small> For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <small>21</small> that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. <small>22</small> We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. <small>23</small> Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. <small>24</small> For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? <small>25</small> But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. <small>26</small> In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. <small>27</small> And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.
<https://bible.com/bible/111/rom.8.18-27.NIV>

Ephesians 6:10 NIV

<small>10</small> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.
<https://ephesians.bible/ephesians-6-10>

Ephesians 5:15-21 NIV

<small>15</small> Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, <small>16</small> making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. <small>17</small> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. <small>18</small> Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, <small>19</small> speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, <small>20</small> always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. <small>21</small> Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.
<https://bible.com/bible/111/eph.5.15-21.NIV>

Ephesians 1:19-23 NLT

<small>19</small> I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe

him. This is the same mighty power <small>20</small> that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. <small>21</small> Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. <small>22</small> God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. <small>23</small> And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.
<https://bible.com/bible/116/eph.1.19-23.NLT>

Ephesians 3:7 NLT

<small>7</small> By God's grace and mighty power, I have been given the privilege of serving him by spreading this Good News.
<https://bible.com/bible/116/eph.3.7.NLT>

Ephesians 3:16-21 NLT

<small>16</small> I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. <small>17</small> Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. <small>18</small> And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. <small>19</small> May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. <small>20</small> Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. <small>21</small> Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.
<https://bible.com/bible/116/eph.3.16-21.NLT>

Ephesians 6:11-20 NIV

<small>11</small> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <small>12</small> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. <small>13</small> Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. <small>14</small> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <small>15</small> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <small>16</small> In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the

flaming arrows of the evil one. 17</small> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18</small> And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. 19</small> Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, 20</small> for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.
<https://bible.com/bible/111/eph.6.11-20.NIV>

Romans 8:26-27 NIV

26</small> In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. 27</small> And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.
<https://bible.com/bible/111/rom.8.26-27.NIV>

How can we stand in the Lord's mighty power?

We stand in the Lord's mighty power by praying in the Spirit.

"Praying in the Spirit" means that we welcome his help as we pray.

Sermon in a Sentence:

Prayer is not a mere mental exercise;
it is the mystifying mission of the Holy Spirit.

Do you long to stand firm in God's mighty power?

Then right here, right now,
start asking for the grace to desire and to do his will –
nothing more,
nothing less,
nothing else.

"Your will be done in me as it is in Heaven."