

DATE: Saturday-Sunday, August 15-16, 2020

SERIES: *RENEW*

SERMON: Renewed in Prayer

Matthew 6:6-13

[6] But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

[7] And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.

[8] Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

[9] “This, then, is how you should pray: ““Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

[10] your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

[11] Give us today our daily bread.

[12] And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

[13] And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

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Prayer is at the heart of the kingdom of God

1. Renew your relationship with God.

Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

2. Renew your faith in the Father.

3. Renew your commitment to the Father's will.

4. Renew your dependence on His love and power.

- Only what is truly confessed is truly forgiven.

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Prayer is at the _____ of the _____ of God

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2. Renew your _____ in the _____.

3. Renew your _____ to the Father's _____.

4. Renew your _____ on His _____ and _____.

- Only what is truly _____ is truly _____.

Lagniappe

People are struggling

People are struggling. From the unrest in the country to the personal pain and loss with COVID-19, people are struggling.

Much of this struggling seems to come from lack of close relationships with loving people.

What should we do?

First, pray for people and pray with people. When people pray with us, we receive a “Double” benefit. We are blessed because we’ve been prayed for, and we are blessed by the association and relationship with someone who prays for us personally.

Second, reach out to the people God brings to your mind.

This should especially be the case if you are not struggling. If things are not difficult for you, don’t simply go on with your life. Do your very best to see the needs of others and help them with their struggles.

Third, don’t lecture. Those who are struggling may already be feeling shame or guilt that will only be exacerbated by our lecturing. They need to be loved, cared for, and understood. Understanding takes time. Time is what struggling people need.

When your friend feels loved and understood, then you will have the opportunity to gently suggest other ways of thinking and behaving.

Fourth, be available. Let people know you are there for them, but don’t wait for them to take the initiative.

I know this seems strange, but hurting and struggling people have a hard time asking for help. Therefore, we as the church need to find every way to connect with people who are hurting.

Finally, share the love and compassion of God. Go to struggling people in the name of the Lord Jesus. Share with them how God has been with you and how He can be with them.

