

GREETINGS FROM GREENVINE



Prayer. I have been thinking a great bit about prayer lately. I know you enjoy Karen praying on Sunday mornings. Me too. She is quite the prayer warrior. I have been reading some of Francis Chan’s words about prayers. As we venture into the 4th chapter of the book of Revelation, we see the Throne Room of God accepting the worship and praise from all creation. I

think it tells us that the most important aspect of prayer is to realize that God in all of His holiness and awe, we have been granted the favor entering into His presence and having a great conversation.

Communion and communicating with the Sovereign of the universe. That in itself is a wonderful thought. **Hebrews 4: 14 - 16 says, “Having then a great high priest, who hath passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest that cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but one that hath been in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore draw near with boldness unto the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy, and may find grace to help us in time of need.”**

I am often in awe at the thought and truth that the holy Sovereign of the universe; the great God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who is “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty” even entertains the thought that sinful people can come into His presence. He allows us an audience with Himself. Seems to me that this is another one of those “grace” moments that God gives us something that we don’t deserve. We can do no merit that will impress God to the point where He would think, “Wow, you have certainly impressed me; I think I’ll allow you to come into my presence.” No, rather, we are invited to be with Him.

It all started at creation. You remember that God “walked with mankind in the cool of the evening.” There are two basic truths here that point out the fact of Who He is, and what He is like. Mankind, being the crown jewel of creation, and made in the image of God, is brought into sweet communion with God Himself. Janie, our daughter, was here yesterday for a visit. One of our conversations went to, “So how do you suppose that walk together took place?” In our own limited thought process, I said, “Maybe as Adam and Eve were taking their evening stroll in Paradise, God showed up and asked how they were doing, and how was your day going?”

It reminds us of how much God cares for us. It reminds us that God is interested in all the areas and crevices of life. One of the first conversations that Karen and I have when she gets home is, “How was your day?” That intimate conversation where anything can be talked about, prayed over, and simply be empathetic to one another. Such a great intimate time of reflecting upon what God has brought us through even this day.

That paradise walk also shows us that He not only cares, but He also desires to be the focal point of our days. We sit for an evening meal together most every night. We sit around the table and simply talk through everything that we desire to talk about. Because of our relationship with one another, we can talk about and deal with any situation. Good. Bad. Indifferent. Touching each others heart. Praying together and helping one another work through difficulties and problems. We have learned that the simple truth of communicating intimately at the end of the day is so very therapeutic.

Much like that, God wants us to focus on Him over and over. The chief concern of His for us as His followers, is that we are willing to trust Him in all things as well as everything. He still desires to be the active force in our lives while we are still here on earth. He literally interjects Himself into our lives for discipline, a sense of security, an acknowledgment of His love, and receiving the blessing of knowing that He cares.

So the next thought process brings us to: “What do we pray for?” Umbrella prayers, that is simply praying for overall, general things, is good on occasion; however, the tenet of Scripture is that we get very specific about praying for every aspect of our lives and in the lives of friends, family and church family. We have the opportunity to approach the Throne of Grace with anything that is on our minds.

The last couple of weeks have been very stressful as we went through some medical situations and still are in the middle of some. I must remind myself, **“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything with prayer and thanksgiving, let your requests be made know to God. And His peace, that is beyond our human understanding will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”**

Little old “Greenvine Church’ has gone through some real struggles and difficulties lately. But it is not more than God can handle, and more than we can trust Him in. What a great blessing to realize that God always cares for us.

Here is an interesting thought that a friend sent my way this morning; **“No matter what is going on in your life today, nor what you are doing both good and not so good, the infinite, Sovereign God of the universe is thinking of you.”** That is a great realization that we can hold on to. We, you, are in God’s thoughts and mind today. He cares for us both as individuals and as a collective body.

“O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder, consider all the worlds Thy hands have made. I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, Thy power throughout the universe displayed. Then sings my soul, my Savior, God to Thee; how great Thou art!”

“And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing, sent Him to die I scarce can take it in. That on that cross, my burden gladly bearing, He bled and died to take away my sin. Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee: How great Thou art.”

Let me end this newsletter reflecting on what may have been the conversation in paradise between God and mankind: “How was your day?” And “How are you doing?”

Just got word that Sandra’s heart procedure went so well. Another answer to prayer. We bless God on her behalf. Jack & Karen

Announcements

- Please remember to complete your information card for the directory.
- Wednesday Night Bible Study -Wednesday nights @ 6pm
- Women’s Ministry - 2nd Tuesday of each month @6pm - Next meeting July 13@6pm
- Men’s Prayer Breakfast - Wednesday June 29, @ 7am
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- **4th of July Barbecue- Sunday July 4th - 5pm - dark -**

Please be here at 3pm to help set up for party.

- Woman will provide desserts and decorate
- Men will set up table and chairs and put out games
- We will need help to clean up

Prayer Requests

Jack - Upcoming treatments for additional kidney stones and fractured wrist

Larry Pulliam - Knee surgery went very well - He is home recovering.

Sandra Pulliam - Heart Cath showed no problems - she will be following up with Cardiologist

Carol Witte - Still not feeling well. She is being treated for 2 bacterial infections

Byron Rutland - Having issues with Diverticulitis - He is scheduled for surgery August 9, 2021

Dorothy and Ben's 3 yr old Great Niece, Dovie Guelker was kicked by a horse and sustained a concussion, damage to her heart and liver. Please pray for a full recovery.

Dorothy and Ben's grandson Ran is seeing doctors this week for new testing

Becky's granddaughter Taylor who has Cystic Fibrosis and is having health issues

Debbie and Cliff's grandson Chace - Dental Issues

Colin Smith - 18 yr old with a Traumatic Brain Injury. (Patient of Karens)

Gerri Smart's daughter Terri has been diagnosed with cancer. She has started her chemo treatments. Please pray for strength as she walks through this and prayers for Gerri as well as she she helps Terri through this process.

Cliff Reed's dad is recovering from a UTI (He was hospitalized earlier this week)

Joe Durrett - Stomach cancer and heart attack - home on hospice care

Ray and Bev Morris - Bev and been diagnosed with Alzheimers

Cliff's dad has dementia and is not doing well.

Mandy Forester - Upcoming Brain surgery

Sandra Carson's daughter Candace is having some mental health issues

Bob & Sadie Easley - Health issues

Ed Ehring's sister Julie Robison is suffering from Alzheimer's.

Vicky Hoffman - legally blind but her eyes are getting worse

Prayers for those working in health related jobs, for protection. Especially those from our own families:
Karen at St Joseph - Susan - State School - Zella Johnson