

Pacific Coast Church

June 2, 1996

First John 5:14-15

Pastor Mike

96-21

Resuscitating Your Prayer Life

Getting Motivated to Boldly Ask a Responsive God

1 John 5:14-15 -----> 14) This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 15) And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.
(NIV)

1. Rekindle Your Confidence in God's Great Proposition

A. It's An _____ Proposition

B. It's A _____ Proposition

2. Meeting the Big Condition

A. Be Ready For _____

B. Get Into _____

C. No _____

D. Pray for _____

Discussion Questions

*These questions are provided to further your application of Sunday's message and to prepare you for PCC's small group discussions. *For information on small groups that are meeting throughout the summer please call Matt Banks @ 714-492-3608.*

1. Many believe that a prayer life consist solely of casual conversation with God throughout the day. Though this is good and important, the Bible assumes that a healthy prayer life includes regular times of really pouring out one's heart to God. Read the following verses: Luke 6:12; Colossians 4:12; First Samuel 1:10-14; and Luke 22:44. Describe this kind of praying. How does this differ from "throwing one up to God" while driving down the freeway?

2. If you were to rate your prayer life what kind of diagnosis would you give it? Thriving and healthy? Managing with moderate health? Sluggish and sickly? Majorly hurting and in need of immediate medical attention? Passed out on the floor with few or no signs of life?

Why do you feel your prayer life qualifies for that rating?

Can you point to a time when your prayer life was healthier? When? What was different back then?

3. What are the major distractions you encounter when you attempt to get serious about talking to God?

Realizing the importance of prayer, what can you do to minimize these distractions? What settings can you create that are most conducive to focused and fervent praying?

4. Many times we don't pray because we forget just how powerful prayer really is. Why do you think Christians often doubt God's responsiveness and therefore don't pray?

5. The challenge that our passage presents us with is making sure that when we pray we pray according to God's will. Do you struggle with knowing what God's will is when you pray? Describe this frustration.

Which steps concerning the discovery of God's will were most helpful for you? Which do you struggle with the most?

6. How difficult is it for you to "sign the blank check"? What helps you to willingly pray "not my will but yours..."?

7. What tools are most helpful to you when you have to look up a topic in the Bible that you are seeking to discover God's will regarding?

8. Who are the people in your life that you know will give you godly counsel when seeking God's will and not just tell you what you want to hear?

9. What big things will you decide to put on your prayer list as a result of this study? What new things are you ready to trust God for with a fresh confidence?