

House of Prayer, Pt. 2

January 25, 2015

Introduction

- Grace Chapel will begin a new Tuesday night prayer meeting on February 17, 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary
- We will encourage fervent, effective, productive, passionate, and faith-filled praying

The first time prayer is mentioned in the Bible

- important to consider context of passage, and not view through our own filters
- this study today should not only teach, but also inspire us to become a House of Prayer

Genesis 3

- Serpent deceives Eve, Adam eats, know their nakedness, sew leaves, hide, afraid of God
- Eve — pain in childbearing, desire to rule over husband, he'll rule over you
- Adam — cursed ground, toil, sweat, thorns, thistles
- Serpent — Genesis 3:14-15 — enmity between your seed and her Seed

A promise was made by God — male seed!

- exiled — God drove Adam and Eve out of garden — serious judgment

Genesis 4

- Male seeds are born — Genesis 4:1-2
 - first male seeds — Cain and Able
 - Cain kills Abel (one male seed dead)
- Cain — Genesis 4:11-12
 - cursed from the earth, fugitive and vagabond

Remaining seed is now cursed, fugitive, vagabond — more serious judgment

What do Adam, Eve, and Cain KNOW ABOUT GOD at this point—not much

- God of creation — in all of its beauty
- God of relationship — God to man, man to woman
- God of commands — don't eat fruit
- God of Judgment — judged Adam and Eve, judged Cain
- God of Promises — Eve's Seed will bruise Serpent's head

The first humans knew only what they had personally experienced.

First humans limited experience

- creation, relationship, sin, judgment, exile, murder, loss, grief

Yet a promise remained of a seed coming to defeat the Serpent!

Seth is born

- Genesis 4:25 — another male seed born to Adam and Eve, when Adam was 130
- Eve named him Seth — “for God has appointed another seed for me...”
 - Eve’s mind is still on the promise of a male seed

**In her waiting, in her grief, in her hope deferred —
Eve never lost sight of the promise of God — nor should we!**

Learned some new things about God

- He is not just a God who promises — He is a God who Fulfills Promises
 - in His own time and own way
 - we must continue to trust the promises He’s made
 - God is a Restorer
 - the male seed that was lost was given back to them (Seth in place of Abel)
 - God used Seth to restore life, hope, joy, and expectation
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Men began to call on the name of the Lord — 235 years into creation

- Genesis 4:26 — Seth had a son named Enosh
- when Enosh was born, men began to call on the name of the Lord — why?
 - one possibility — the name Enosh means “frail,” “mortal,” or “sickly”
 - second possibility — maybe his name represented all of sick humanity (Cain’s line) — needed God to intervene
 - ** preferred view — they met and encountered the God of Blessing and Abundance
 - ** God not only gave Seth to Adam and Eve, but also gave a son Enosh to Seth, and grandson to Adam and Eve
 - ** when they met Him, they couldn’t help but call on His Name
 - ** their revelation of God’s Abundant Generosity expanded, their faith grew, and they called on His Name!

**He’s not just the God of creation, God of relationship, God of judgment,
or God of promise — He’s the God of fulfilled promises
AND the God of abundant generosity —
even while we’re waiting,
and even while society is going crazy —
Let’s start calling on His name.**

Calling on His Name

- “kaw-raw” in Hebrew means “accost” — “accost” means to engage a person you’ve met, to address someone with boldness and fervor

When they understood the abundant generosity and glorious goodness of God, not limited by society’s woes, they accosted God, they addressed Him with boldness and fervor, imploring Him to show up and show off in their midst.

- Hebrews 4:16 — come boldly to the throne of Grace
- James 5:16 — fervent prayer accomplishes much

For Grace Chapel today

- to start boldly and fervently calling on the God of Abundant Generosity
- asking Him to show up and show off in our midst
- everything He wants for us is here
- regardless of what’s happening in the world — expect our prayers to affect the world

Warren Wiersby — “It isn’t important when the church prays, but it is important that the church prays, for great power is released when God’s people join together to cry out to the Lord. For centuries, the weekly church prayer meeting was called the ‘powerhouse of God.’”¹

**Challenge from Pastor Steve -
We’ve been entrusted with a lot of knowledge and understanding
about the goodness, grace, and power of God.
Let’s allow that to inspire us to accost God together,
so we might see an increase of God’s Kingdom power and glory in our midst!**

Discussion Questions

1. Had you ever considered how God revealed Himself to Adam and Eve in increments, as the right time came? In your own life, have you discovered different aspects of God as He revealed them to you?
2. Why do you think Eve was able to hold on to the promise of the seed to come? How is her faith evidenced in the choice of name for her son?
3. Do you have a hope or promise that has not been fulfilled? How does this passage give you hope?
4. At the birth of Enosh, why did men begin to call on the name of the Lord?
5. What form did their “calling” take?
6. Is there something in your life that makes you want to “come boldly” to God to find help?
7. Have you ever prayed “fervently” for something/someone? What difference did you feel in your praying?
8. Were your “fervent” prayers more effective? If not, why?
9. What do you think could happen in our church if you become actively involved in our Tuesday night prayer times?
10. What might happen to you, if you become an active part of these prayer meetings?

¹ Warren Wiersby, *10 Power Principles for Christian Service*, (Baker Books, Grand Rapids, MI, 2010) 89