

June 6th, 2021 "Communion Sunday"
*Partners in Prayer: "Everything We
Need!"*

Dear Partners in Prayer Team,

*"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in
everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in
Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NKJV)*



*"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."
Romans 12:12 (NIV)*

Have you ever had the kind of week where you were trying very hard to fix some things, but when you did, the result of the fixing created a whole new list of more things that needed fixed? Like dominos, it leads to another fix. It often tires and exhausts us! That is the kind of week I have lived on many levels. So as I come to concentrate on Sunday's Prayer Partner's information, more and more information keeps coming in to share with you! I want to take time to prepare our hearts for communion and use some of the themes of Gideon we have been studying these last few weeks. There are several we can refer to: God's grace is sufficient; when we are weak, God is strong; God finds us in wrong places, but lifts us to new ways to serve Him; and God uses little things for big results, like torches, clay pots, barley bread, and trumpets. Remember one of the main themes of Gideon has been "Less Is Best?" Well, the only thing that never applies to is our prayers! As referenced in Scriptures above, we should always be praying and not quitting. We should always be faithful in prayer, even when it is hard. So here are four simple reminders of God using a "little" prayer:

1. God knows a little prayer means everything!

First, I want take us back lest we forget all that God is teaching us as a church since the beginning of this year. Our theme: "Looking to the Son in 2021!" What is the word the Lord is speaking to impress upon us this year? The word: "EVERYTHING!" First of all this isn't much of a word. These are the best synonyms for "everything," which includes: the universe, every little thing, aggregate, all, all things, totality, the 'kit-and-kabuttal', the whole schmear, the whole...!" What are opposite words of everything? "Nothing." So why "EVERYTHING?" Because God and Jesus must be our "everything." Let's review our two church verses on "everything." The first reminds us that "Jesus is our everything!" It is: "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain" *Philippians 1:21 (NKJV)*.

The second verse reminds us that for the year ahead, God alone will provide and give us "everything we need to live godly lives!" That verse is 2 Peter 1:3:

“His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness” (NIV). And as we studied the book of 2 Peter, we adopted 6 basics that we as a church must be doing. They are:

- ✓ *Every grace we gain for our Salvation. Everything begins at our Salvation.*
- ✓ *Every person involved in a relationship. That our responsibility to be disciples and to be discipling together. It’s not a choice for us. It’s our program.*
- ✓ *Every member a minister. That is our service in the family of God.*
- ✓ *Every promise is true! That is our authority, God’s Word.*
- ✓ *Every prayer answered! That is our passion as an upper-room church.*
- ✓ *Every hope for Christ to come in these end days. That is our motivation.*

Let’s stop and pray through these areas and verses and remember to ask God to bless Palisades Community Bible Church and surrender to Him our everything! This is why we exist! This is our work! This is our sense of purpose.

2. God uses a little prayer to prepare us for much!

The study of the Word and prayer go together, and where we find the one truly practiced, the other is sure to be seen in close alliance. But we do not pray always. That is the trouble with so many of us. We need to pray much more than we do and much longer than we do. I want to share another ‘hero’ of my prayer faith named Pastor Robert Murray McCheyne. Pastor M’Cheyne was born May 21, 1813 and died March 25, 1843. There is so much to share about all he did. He was a minister in the Church of Scotland from 1835 to 1843. He was educated at the University and at the Divinity Hall in Scotland, and was assistant at Larbert and Dunipace. A mission of inquiry among the Jews throughout Europe and in Palestine, and a religious revival at his church in Dundee, made him feel that he was being called to evangelistic rather than to pastoral work, but before he could carry out his plans he died, on 25 March 1843. McCheyne, though wielding remarkable influence in his lifetime, was still more powerful afterwards, through his *Memoirs and Remains*, edited by Andrew Bonar, which ran into far over a hundred English editions. Some of his hymns became well known and his Bible reading plan is still in common use. I’ve been slowly going through the book written by Andrew Bonar, and it has been slow going, but I gathered these wonderful stories and facts about his prayer life.

He spent much time on his knees. He never wearied in urging upon others the joy and the value of holy intercession. He said: “God’s children should pray. They should pray day and night unto Him. God hears every one of your cries in the busy hour of the daytime and in the lonely watches of the night” (pg. 51). In every way, by preaching, by exhortation when present and by letters when

absent, McCheyne emphasized the vital duty of prayer. In his diary we find this: "In the morning was engaged in preparing the head, then the heart. This has been frequently my error, and I have always felt the evil of it, especially in prayer. Reform it then, O Lord" (pg. 51).

While on his trip to the Holy Land he wrote: "For much of our safety I feel indebted to the prayers of my people. If the veil of the world's machinery were lifted off how much we would find done in answer to the prayers of God's children" (pg. 52).

In an ordination sermon he said to the preacher, "Give yourselves to prayers and the ministry of the Word. If you do not pray, God will probably lay you aside from your ministry to teach you to pray" (pg. 52).

He used to keep a plaid blanket on his bed that he might wrap himself in when he rose during the night. Sometimes his wife found him on the ground laying weeping. When she complained, he would say, "O woman, I have the souls of three thousand to answer for, and I know not how it is with many of them." The people he exhorted and charged at church weekly, "Pray for your pastor. Pray for his body, that he may be kept strong and spared many years. Pray for his soul, that he may be kept humble and holy, a burning and shining light. Pray for his ministry that it may be abundantly blessed, that he may be anointed to preach good tidings. Let there be no secret prayer without naming him before your God, not family prayer without carrying your pastor in your hearts to God" (pg. 52). May I ask you to think and pray for me!?

"Two things," said his biographer Andrew, "he seems never to have ceased from the cultivation of personal holiness and the most anxious efforts to win souls" (pg. 2). The two are inseparable attendants on the ministry of prayer. Prayer fails when the desire and effort for personal holiness fail. No person is a soul-winner who is not adept in the ministry of prayer. "It is the duty of ministers," said this holy pastor, "to begin the reformation of religion and manner with themselves, families, etc., with confession of past sin, earnest prayer for direction, grace and full pursuit of heart." He begins with himself under the head of "Reformation in Secret Prayer," and he resolves:

"I ought not to omit any of the parts of prayer- confession, adoration, thanksgiving, petition and intercession. There is a fearful tendency to omit confession proceeding from low views of God and His law, slight views of my heart, and the sin of my past life. This must be resisted. There is a constant tendency to omit adoration when I forget to whom I am speaking, when I rush heedlessly into the presence of Jehovah without thought of His awful name and character. When I have eyesight for His glory, and little admiration of His wonders, I have the native tendency of the heart to omit giving thanks. Often when the heart is dead to the salvation of others I omit intercession, and yet it especially is the spirit of the Great Advocate who has the name of Israel on his heart. I ought to pray before seeing anyone. Often when I sleep long, or meet with others early,

and then have family prayer and breakfast and forenoon callers, it is eleven or twelve o'clock before I begin secret prayer. This is a wretched system; it is unscriptural. Christ rose before day and went into a solitary place. If I have slept too long, or I am going on an early journey, or my time is in any way shortened, it is best to dress hurriedly and have a few minutes alone with God then to give up all for lost. But in general it is best to have at least one hour alone with God before engaging in anything else. I ought to spend the best hours of the day in prayer" (pg. 53).

McCheyne believed in being always in prayer, and his fruitful life, short though that life was, affords an illustration of the power that comes from long and frequent visits to the secret place where we keep time with our Lord. Men of McCheyne's stamp are needed today- praying men, who know how to give themselves to the greatest task demanding their time and their attention; men and women who can give their whole heart to the holy task of intercession. God is committed to us men and women of prayer! Let's remember to come and make the church's new prayer hour before our services! Let's try to restart the importance of coming and praying together!

3. God empowers a little prayer into much power!

Do you know that prayer best prevents us from temptation? Did you also know that when most Christians dress in the morning, they never put on the "Armor of prayer" (Ephesians 6:10-17)? We need to make it our weekly duty to at least pray on our armor. Can I challenge you to figure out a weekly goal of praying or reading through Ephesians 6? We even have prayer cards in the church near the tract table to "pray on our armor."

Richard Rogers, a great Puritan preacher, wrote a book entitled *Holy Helps for a Godly Life*. He puts together in this small 100-page booklet one of the greatest reminders for prayer and the armor of God. Get a copy and start reading through it. He said this: *"To conclude, what can there be in this daily life but fainting, discomfort, and many discouragements, if we do not wear our armor. For the church will not prosper, thrive, or grow into maturity in Christ, nor be delivered from the hindrances of the world, unless they are strongly armed, just as God has taught us to be. When a church lacks the armor (because of either being unknown or unused), they are vexed with infinite irksomeness, heaviness, distraction, sluggishness, doubting, and fear. Their hearts are occupied by other fleshly manner, vain hope, imaginary dreams of peace and safety where none is. Taking the armor, their lives before others fail to show forth light and good example in one thing as well as in another. Rather, this church will harbor many evil qualities, insomuch that few are encouraged by them to become better, nor to suspect anything is amiss in themselves. Instead, they are hardened to continue in their ways" (pg. 98-99).* Do you hear that? So as we prepare even today for our church business meeting, are we going to have unity in this vote or will there be strife and worldliness in our church people's hearts?

Here is the prayer list for June sent by Brenda Hendricks for this month:

- **June 6th...** Communion Sunday and business meeting to vote on time change (pray people vote what is best for the church and no opportunity for the enemy to bring disagreement or selfish disunity).
- **June 13th ...**Graduate recognition (pray our young people remain devoted to seeking God's will for their lives no matter where it leads them).
- **June 20th...** Father's day (pray fathers rise up to their place of leadership with great courage by God's strength).
- **July 3rd...**Wedding coming for Pastor's family (pray this exemplifies to those attending the covenant between Christ and the church).
- **July Sunday's...**God continues to lift restrictions so we can start fellowship after church.
- **July 24th...** Church picnic and 5 Baptisms! (Pray for the planning and those individuals being baptized will be blessed in their obedience).

Pray for Pastor and Church Leaders:

(Elders- Paul Crown, Tom Hendricks) (Deacons- Kevin Milz, Tim Hendricks, Alex Poniktera, Luke Hendricks, Brent Briggs, Bob White, Bryan Smith)

- ***Wisdom to Know God's Agenda;*** that Corvin will remain sensitive to God's leading and live and work according to God's priorities with true humility.
- ***Healthy Relationships;*** with his wife and family and with the congregants.
- ***Protection From Spiritual Warfare;*** pray Corvin puts on the full armor of God and that he will be given protection from the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.
- ***Equip the Saints;*** pray that as he grows in his spiritual life he equips the body to do the work of ministry.

Pray for Congregation at PCBC:

- There have been about 20 people who have seemed to "disappear" and have never returned to church since "Covid-19". That God would bring them back.
- We want to see God answer our prayers, by doing something outrageous, so that when it happens, it can only be God's credit and glory!

4. God turns a little prayer into a lot!

What is God's heart on prayer as a duty or delight? Prayer is the duty and delight of God's people. It is duty—it's what God commands. It's hard work. It's difficult. The apostle Paul recognized that prayer can be a struggle when he asked the church in Rome "to strive together with me in your prayers to God" (Romans 15:30 ESV). Paul said of one fellow coworker in ministry that "he is always wrestling in prayer for you" (Colossians 4:12). Striving and wrestling—that's how Paul describes prayer.

But prayer is also a delight. Paul recognized the joy and delight of prayer when he said to the Philippians, “In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy” (Philippians 1:4). It is a wonderful treasure and privilege to talk with the God of the universe about what’s on your heart. Prayer brings joy, produces peace, and increases our intimacy with God.

Below are some biblical truths about prayer – to help you see what the Lord says about the duty and delight of prayer. It’s our job and also our joy as believers to pray. It’s both rigorous and restful. We need to experience both the gravity and gladness of God in prayer. This, of course, takes work but also brings much joy.

- ✓ God wants us to pray! “Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; be persistent in prayer.” (Romans 12:12 HCSB)
- ✓ God listens to prayer. “I love the LORD because he hears my voice and my prayer for mercy” (Psalm 116:1 NLT).
- ✓ God answers prayer. “In my distress I prayed to the LORD, and the LORD answered me and set me free” (Psalm 118:5 NLT).
- ✓ God wants you to pray all the time. “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 ESV).
- ✓ God wants you to align your will with His will in prayer. “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us” (1 John 5:14)
- ✓ God wants you to talk to Him about your worries and receive His peace in prayer. “Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6–7 NLT).
- ✓ God wants you to honestly tell Him what’s on your heart and trust Him in prayer. “Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge” (Psalm 62:8).
- ✓ God wants you to pray with persistence and with gratitude. “Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful” (Colossians 4:2).
- ✓ God wants you to pray for others—for leaders, the lost, and all people. “I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:1–4).
- ✓ God wants you to pray with others. “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer” (Acts 2:42)
- ✓ God wants you to pray for fellow believers. “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" (Ephesians 6:18).

- ✓ God helps others by your prayers. "You are helping us by praying for us. Then many people will give thanks because God has graciously answered so many prayers for our safety" (2 Corinthians 1:11 NLT).
- ✓ God is glorified through prayer.
- ✓ "Call on me when you are in trouble, and I will rescue you, and you will give me glory" (Psalm 50:15 NLT).

We need to keep praying for the opening of our church. This week the state and governor opened up our places of worship and business to 100% capacity. What does that mean?

1. We don't have to post or limit those coming to church anymore. We were limited to 80% and not exceeding capacities. We were supposed to have counters watch how many enter the building. That is not required.
2. We don't have to keep 6-foot distance between worshippers and chairs. We can go back to normal seating. People just need to exercise their own discretions for comfortable distance.
3. We don't have to limit fellowship meals and prohibit service of food. We can return to Sunday fellowship meals after church. We are thinking to restart those after the church picnic in July just to give us time to reschedule and get people lined up. Eileen has shared that she isn't able to coordinate the fellowship, so we are looking for individuals with great organization skills to team up or lead this ministry. Eileen will help in any way possible to get us started.
4. We don't have to use one entrance and one exit any longer. People who are still uncomfortable with the change back are free to stay in the fellowship room where they can still experience and enjoy the full service from a distance. We will keep that available until the end of July when we have our kick off Church picnic and baptism service.
5. We are waiting for the "mask" wearing mandate to come off by June 30th. In the meantime, the CDC has said that anyone with immunity can go into any public place without a mask now. Don't worry about what the establishment's signs are saying. You will notice that places like Turkey Hill, Wal-Mart, and other businesses are taking those signs down.

Remember Jesus is always and will only be the safest place one can be! So you will start to notice that change in church seating this week and the following days to come.

So let's pray together, and praise God!

"O our Father, glorious, powerful and kind, we thank You for Your faithfulness in getting us through these Covid-19 months. We know that people around us are still driven by fear, and worry, but we ask that you remind us all that only Jesus is the truly safest place to be. He is our anchor! He is our steadfast hope! He is our everything! We praise you

for this communion time of reflecting on our prayer lives. We ask you to make us as a church people- 'warriors of prayer' not 'worriers of people or things.' Lord Jesus, thank You for Your strength to draw us and being the one who listens and answers our prayers from the throne of Grace in heaven, even today! How marvelous, how wonderful You are! Holy Spirit make us a people of praise and humility. May we constantly give you glory as you take us 'little-ole' Palisades Community Bible Church, and use us for better ministry, better prayer, and better growth. We know that the end times are nearing, and we pray that You continue to guide us and sustain us! Grow us daily in the knowledge and fear of the Lord, until you complete that good work on the day You take us to be with You forever in heaven. In the Name of Christ we pray, amen."

***Ever praying,
Pastor Corvin Seltzer <><***

Quote: "I will proceed, persuading all good Christians to lay aside contention as well as endless and often needless questions about public prayer. Let us resolve together what must be granted: those public prayers are a help to stir up God's graces in us and to convey to us the many good blessings of God, which we need!" ... Richard Rogers (*Holy Helps for a Godly Life* pg. 30)

Quote: "Little prayer is characteristic of a backslidden age and of a backslidden church! Whenever there is little prayer in the pulpit or in the pew- spiritual bankruptcy is imminent and inevitable!"... E. M. Bounds (*Purpose in Prayer*, pg. 54)

