



THE POWER OF PRAYER

RAY GURNEY, PASTOR

My focus for this article is prayer; the reality of prayer and the power of prayer. This February we have had to rely on the supernatural power of God to overcome some difficult things we and others faced. Julie, faced cancer she knew had invaded her body and later, reports said from further testing it may be more serious than the first reports indicated. That's not what the patient wants to hear. We, as her church, began to pray in faith, believing God would make it go away. It is possible the cancer was everywhere the tests showed or that it was not to be found in those areas. The final results of the tests were in Julie's favor. Thank you, Lord, for your watch care over her!

My observation about prayer has been that every time Jesus prayed for a miracle, He got one. He knew what He was doing. Raising people from the dead was no more difficult for Jesus than was holding a small amount of food in His hand, praying a blessing over it, and feeding thousands of people. Or how about a man asking Him to come and heal his daughter who was sick. He told the man to go back home to her because she was healed. Now folks, when I say I have studied Jesus and His prayers, it is an understatement. Every time He asked the Father for something supernatural it happened. I want my prayers to be so faith-filled that they work every time; not just sometimes. I'm sure you feel the same. A problem I encounter is that I don't always know God's plan for a particular situation. How many people came to Jesus asking for mercy and healing and went away just as ill as when they came to Jesus? He turned water into wine, cursed a fig tree that died overnight, calmed a violent sea

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and stopped the wind. He also walked on water. He knew what the Father was doing around Him so He joined Him in His work. Smooth operation.

More recently, our faith was tested when Linda Beulens reported that Ackenia and her little brother Eli were at Children's Mercy Hospital due to child abuse in the home. Ackenia needed intensive care due to the critical condition in which she was found. We began to pray, I informed the church's prayer warriors, and they started praying. We prayed with every update they sent us. Sunday morning worship service we prayed for her. Then things started turning around for Ackenia. She responded to the treatments she received and before the day was over, she was out of ICU. We were amazed and thankful to God that He was working around us in this near-death situation. I visited her at home. She is so blessed to have Great Grandma, Annette, and her uncle Bobby to give her a safe place to live. There's a third baby coming this month (March) and she will become a part of the family, too.

Occasionally we hear people ask; why am I still alive? I'm not good for anything. It may feel that way but as long as we have breath in our lungs we can pray when there is a need. In my prayer time each morning I try to see the person healed or their need met by God. That keeps it real for me.

Finally, I'll just have returned from my journey to Guatemala when this newsletter is out. I pray I'll have an exciting report when I return and give you an update on how God answers prayer!

Pastor Ray

SPRING CHURCH CLEANING DAY MARCH 29TH 8 AM - 2 PM



Pastor Ray said come and join us for biscuits and gravy for breakfast! We need to, pick up limbs and sticks. Some baseboards need to be washed and there are a few easier things on the list. If you are able, please come and join in the fun!



LADIES DAY OUT

Ladies, we are headed to the **Red Door Woodfired Grill**, in Lee's Summit, voted Best Restaurant in KC! Enjoy scratch-made classics like the Sweet Cheeses Burger or wood-fired Cumin BBQ Salmon. We will meet at the church on **March 18 at 10:45 AM** and head out. Please add your name to our sign-up sheet in the lobby. Hope you will attend!

Vickie

NO SHAME

God never wants you to linger with bad feelings about yourself – even when you sin. The healthy response to sin is sadness, not shame.

Nothing good comes from shame. When we condemn ourselves for our sins, failings, or struggles it pushes us away from God.

Shaming and guilt tripping ourselves over our sin pulls us down into depression and isolation, further and further away from the mercy of Christ and the care of other people.

Shame is worldly sorrow. When we're punishing ourselves with shame we're rejecting the mercy of Christ that we need, which cuts off the flow of God's Spirit of grace from us to others.

Of course there are things that we do that are "shameful," but self-condemnation and self-hatred are not healthy responses.

Instead, God would have us respond to our awareness of sin with the sadness that leads to repentance-this is the healthy response to our brokenness. It's what Paul calls "godly sorrow" (2 Corinthians 7:8-13).

The point of this reading is NOT to shame you for feeling shame!

It would be unrealistic to expect that we would never feel shame again. At times we all feel inadequate, insignificant, less than, or unloved because of some deficiency (real or felt). We may fall into a pit of feeling bad about ourselves-even if we know better.

But when that happens, it's an opportunity for us to realize that we need a fresh touch of grace from Jesus.

Shame causes us to hide (just like Adam and Eve). So the best way to get out of shame is to come out of hiding and receive empathy.

When we take courage and share vulnerably with God and safe people about what we're feeling and receive their empathy and grace, it helps us get free of shame.

And the best part is: after we feel sad about our sin and confess it to God to receive the mercy of Christ then we can feel happy!

As we worship the Lord with our heart we can increasingly overcome self-condemning thoughts and shameful emotions.



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Chrissy Kirkman

CROSS CREEK BAPTIST

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Even in the stillness of a resting earth, GOD IS AT WORK creating beauty and restoring life.



\$6.00 per person (ages 7 - adult)
\$3.00 per person (ages 6 & under)

DON'T FORGET

SPRING CHURCH WIDE CLEANING:

March 29, 2025

TESTIMONY SUNDAY:

March 30, 2025

MEN'S BREAKFAST, Saturday, March 15 at 8 AM - Golden Corral in Independence. Please invite your neighbor or a friend to join us. It's a good time to fellowship with other men in our community.

MARCH MENU

Mar. 5, Fried Chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, salad & dessert.

Mar. 12, Corn Beef & Cabbage, cheesy potatoes, carrots, cottage cheese, salad & dessert.

Mar. 19, Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, gravy, veggies, cottage cheese, rolls, salad & dessert.

Mar. 26, MEN'S FISH FRY, mac' & cheese, deviled eggs, garlic bread, salad & dessert.