

Prayer and the Promises of God*2 Peter 1:3-11; Psalm 70*

Introduction: This week we start a series on prayer. Over the next several weeks we will be looking at how people like David, Paul, the psalmists and others prayed in light of God's character. Our hope for all of us is that we would experience a deepening of our own prayer lives and that collectively as a church we would go deeper in our experience of prayer.

Opening Question: What one word would you use to describe your current experience of prayer?

Lowell used the New Living Translation in his sermon:

2 Peter 1:2-8 ² May God bless you with his special favor and wonderful peace as you come to know Jesus, our God and Lord, better and better. ³ As we know Jesus better, his divine power gives us everything we need for living a godly life. He has called us to receive his own glory and goodness! ⁴ And by that same mighty power, he has given us all of his rich and wonderful promises. He has promised that you will escape the decadence all around you caused by evil desires and that you will share in his divine nature. ⁵ So make every effort to apply the benefits of these promises to your life. Then your faith will produce a life of moral excellence. A life of moral excellence leads to knowing God better. ⁶ Knowing God leads to self-control. Self-control leads to patient endurance, and patient endurance leads to godliness. ⁷ Godliness leads to love for other Christians, and finally you will grow to have genuine love for everyone. ⁸ The more you grow like this, the more you will become productive and useful in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Read 2 Peter 1:2-8 from the NLT:

1. What are some of the "rich and wonderful promises" (v. 4) that you see in this passage?
2. What does it mean to "make every effort to apply the benefits of these promises to your life?" (v. 5)
3. How do or maybe how SHOULD the promises of God affect our praying?

Read Psalm 70

4. How does David's understanding of God's character (and His promises) affect his praying?

5. How would you summarize the general request for which David prays?
6. David ends his prayer by saying to God, "Do not delay" (v. 5). Lowell said that this is a great prayer to add to our praying because it:
 - Honestly expresses our longing
 - Trustingly presumes God's faithfulness
 - Boldly presumes God's generosity
 - Humbly defers to God's wisdom

In what ways does this simply three word prayer do these four things?

7. What is one prayer concern that you have right now for which you could begin praying, "O Lord, do not delay?"
8. What promise from God can you stand upon for this request?