

Wake Union Baptist Church Sunday School Devotion



Opening Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for the help, blessings, and protections of another week. We pray for all that are sick or grieving. We pray for those that are lonely and depressed. We thank you as we hear good news about possible vaccines for the virus. We thank you for loving us and hearing our prayers. We ask you now to communicate your will for us through your Holy Word as we consider these scriptures for today. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

If you are able, we would love to see you at our 11:00 am worship service.

Continue to pray for our pastor search.

Pray that we may be able to kick-off a virtual Adult Sunday School class using Zoom, coincident with the start of the new Sunday School quarter on Dec 6th.

Memory Verses

*¹⁴For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: ¹⁵And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again. **2 Corinthians 5:14-15***

Last week we began a series on sharing the Gospel by considering our imperative to do so through the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20), and we examined the content of the Evangelism section of the Baptist Faith and Message. Today we will focus on some requisites, or essential requirements, that we need to be effective in this effort.

The Holy Spirit

*⁸But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. **Acts 1:8***

Our ability to witness effectively is intimately tied to the power of the Holy Spirit, for without Him we can do nothing (John 15:5). Witnessing is not showing what we can do for God through our own power and skill, but telling what God has done for us and letting the Holy Spirit work through us.

Faith in the Sufficiency of Christ

*²⁵Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost (completely, once and forever) that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. **Hebrews 7:25***

Jesus, crucified and resurrected, paid the price for sins once and for all. Through Him our past, present, and future sins are all forgiven. His continual intercession for us as the eternal High Priest reassures that our sins are removed. This is the very essence of the Gospel we are to share.

Love and Zeal for the Salvation of the Lost

⁵Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints; ⁶That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus. **Philemon 1:5-6**

Here Paul reflected on the love and faith which Philemon demonstrated and acknowledged the necessity of these for an effective sharing of our faith. “Rooted and grounded in love” (Ephesians 3:17), we are to believe in Jesus and love one another (1 John 3:23), allowing His love to be perfected in us through the Holy Spirit and our love for others (1 John 4:12) as we tell them about Jesus.

Prayer

³Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance (for our message), to speak (proclaim) the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds (imprisoned): ⁴That I may make it manifest (clear), as I ought to speak. **Colossians 4:3-4**

Paul requested similar prayers from the church at Ephesus, “that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel...as I ought to speak” (Ephesians 6:19-20); and from the church at Thessalonica, “that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified” (2 Thessalonians 3:1). Similarly, we should pray for God to stir the hearts of the lost and open doors of opportunity. We should pray to speak boldly and clearly, the right words at the right time. We should pray for the success of fellow Christians in this same work; that one might plant and another water while God gives the increase (1 Corinthians 3:5-9).

Joy in Salvation

¹⁰And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings (news) of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. **Luke 2:10-11**

We won't be very effective if we witness for Christ with the enthusiasm of Eeyore in the Winnie-the-Pooh stories 😊. The lost observe Christians, perhaps thinking “what is in it for me?” The fact that Jesus saves is good news! As the angel announced His birth to humble shepherds “good tidings of great joy;” He comes to whosoever will accept Him (Revelation 22:17). Jesus came that we might have everlasting life and be full of His joy (John 15:11, 1 John 1:4) as Isaiah prophesied, “with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation” (Isaiah 12:3).

Sympathy, Tactfulness, Perverserance

¹⁹For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant (slave) unto all, that I might gain the more (win as many as possible). ²⁰And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; ²¹To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law. ²²To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made (become) all things to all men, that I might by

all means save some. ²³*And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you (share in its blessings).* **1 Corinthians 9:19-23**

Our goals, like Paul's, should be to glorify God and bring people to Christ. To be effective we must be sensitive to the needs and concerns of all types of people and attempt to find common ground of acceptance within the constraints of the Bible; willing to part with our liberty for the benefit of others.

Conclusion

²⁰*Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,* ²¹*Make you perfect in (completely equipped for) every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.* **Hebrews 13:20-21**
In this favorite benediction of Pastor Mark's, we're reminded that God continually works to shape us into mature Christians that are equipped to do the work that pleases Him. May we each let God change us and use us for His glory.

Closing Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for the forgiveness of sins in that while we were yet sinners, Jesus shed his atoning blood for us. The perfect Lamb of God that whosoever believes in Him shall never perish, but enjoy eternal salvation. Help us to share this good news as you provide the resources for us to do so. We pray for those that have drifted away from the church to return and assist in this vital work of outreach. We pray for the lost, that You would soften their hearts and open doors of opportunity to reach them for Your Kingdom. All praise and glory to You, for ever and ever. In Jesus' name, Amen.