

Faith Report

Reflections on Prayer by Pastor Craig Garriott

I have been going through a paradigm shift in how I view prayer. I know these things in my head. The challenge is to keep them in my heart and live by them.

1) The primary thing that God wants is me—my heart, my relationship, my communion, my trust, my prayers.

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.” (Rev. 3: 20) But I tend to think that God wants what I can bring him: to be a good pastor, good husband, good father, good preacher, good servant-leader. I have God’s smile when I am good and do good. That is a lie because I can never be good enough. I have God’s perfect delight when I am resting in the finished work of Christ. *“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”* (Rom.5:1) In Christ, I can’t do anything too good to have more of God’s love and I can’t do anything too bad to diminish God’s love for me. The Father loves me with the same perfect love He has for Jesus. *“You sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”* (Jn. 17:23) If I can live in this love, then all striving in the flesh for significance, security, and affection from God or others ceases. Resting in God’s grace is the antidote for overworking, people

pleasing, anxiousness, and the idols of my heart. It will energize me for my Kingdom calling. *“In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength.”* (Isaiah 30:5) The chief means to reveal this is our prayer life.



“give our attention to prayer...” Acts 6:4

2) If we win in prayer, we win in everything. The Kingdom moves forward through corporate, kingdom-seeking prayer. No power for the mission was given until the disciples gave themselves to prayer. *“Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift... They all joined together constantly in prayer... After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.”* (Acts 1:4, 14; 4:31)

In Acts 6, prayer was hindered because of unaddressed injustice when the widows were overlooked. Our prayers are hindered when there are offenses and unconfessed sin. God’s love for us doesn’t change when we sin but his use of us for the Kingdom is affected when sin is not corrected. When we humble ourselves and

correct the offenses so that we can have unhindered fellowship in prayer, we will see God move in great ways. *“So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.”* (Acts 6:7)

The challenge for us is “Are we winning in prayer as a first calling for the Kingdom?” Is the preaching and teaching of the Word being covered in prayerful dependence as much as in diligent study and research? Are our ministries and our dreams for expansion covered in dependent, God-seeking prayer, as much as in great planning, preparation and execution? What keeps us from giving ourselves courageously to prayer, and are we willing to do the necessary reforms? The scriptures remind us that all great works of God proceed from the great praying of God’s people.

3) God wants to bless us and fill us with joy if we would just give ourselves to prayer. The scriptures remind us that God waits longingly for us. He has set His affections on us as His beloved children. We are the apple of His eye, His special treasure, His royal priesthood. He is waiting to hear, to answer, and to fill us with the joy of heaven. He tells us to keep seeking, knocking, and asking as bold, persistent, trusting children who know they have the undying parental love of God. (Isa. 30: 18, Jn. 16:24) ♦



FAITH
CHRISTIAN
FELLOWSHIP

505 E. 42nd Street
Baltimore, MD 21218

Phone: 410.323.0202
Fax: 410.435.5075
E-mail: fcf.church@
verizon.net
www.fcfchurch.org

*United that the
world would
know*

*¹⁸And 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
saints.
Eph 6:18*

Officer Profile

Please pray for Will Brown who is standing for election as Elder.



Wilfred Brown was born in Cooperstown, New York, but his family moved to Michigan when he was five years old. He had a very happy upbringing and attended church regularly with his family but cannot ever re-

member hearing the Gospel clearly presented. After a failed marriage, in his mid-30s, he began attending church for the first time in over twenty years. At one Thursday night service before Easter, a friend became very emotional and started to weep. When Will asked her what was wrong, she said that she was thinking of all that Jesus did for her on the cross. Will realized that Jesus was real for her but was not real for him. So he went home and began reading the New Testament. The Holy Spirit opened his eyes and led him to faith in Christ.

Not long afterwards, God introduced Will to Helen and they were married in England in 1993. They spent three years in a wonderful evangelical Anglican church in England, where Will played an active role in the Alpha course, which is a kind of 'Christianity 101' outreach course, and is now run in many countries around the world.

Upon returning to the USA in 1996, Will and Helen lived in Columbia, MD, and joined Chapelgate Presbyterian church, where he led four Alpha courses. He was active in Promise Keepers, attending many events and working on the evangelism team. He also played an active role in Chapelgate's relationship with New Antioch Baptist Church in Randallstown. Will was ordained a PCA ruling elder at

Chapelgate and served one three-year term on the session. He and Helen moved to Baltimore in 2002 and joined FCF in January, 2006.

By his own admission, Will's gifts do not include administration! He leads the Southside Servants covenant group in Federal Hill, but leaves the administrative duties to Helen. Will enjoys meeting newcomers and visitors, and inviting people to see what God is doing at FCF. He considers it a great privilege to be in the great fellowship of believers at FCF, which provides us with a small glimpse of "every tongue, tribe, and nation." He is passionate about developing the next generation of Christian leaders, excited to see what God is doing at FCF, and looks forward to what is to come. He rejoices in the rich blessing of being able to call FCF his spiritual home.

Will's daughter, Sarah, lives in Leiden, Netherlands, with her husband, Jeff, and five-month-old daughter Sophie. Will is a mathematician/computer scientist who worked for the federal government for 25 years, and now works for a contractor. His main hobby is running, which he took up only six years ago. He loves to run crazy long distances and has completed 14 marathons and one 50-mile race to date. ♦

Bits and Pieces

Congratulations to

- Tim and Laura Farmer, and Kelli Stewart who were received into church membership in June.
- John Raine and Kristina Kniley, Steve McGrath and Kaitlyn Strine who were married in June.

CALENDAR

Jul 5 Office closed for Independence Day

Jul 21 Congregational Meeting, 7.30 p.m.

Aug 22 SAVE THE DATE. FCF Picnic at Woodbery Crossing, Parkville