

THE LORD’S DAY WORSHIP

ELEVEN O’CLOCK

September 16, 2018

We gather today as “the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant ... ” Hebrews 12:23-24a

A Time for Preparation

Silent Prayer of Preparation for Worship

O GOD OF THE OPEN EAR,

Teach me to live by prayer as well as by providence, for myself, soul, body, children, family, church; give me a heart frameable to your will; so might I live in prayer, and honor you, being kept from evil, known and unknown. Help me to see the sin that accompanies all I do, and the good I can distil from everything. Let me know that the work of prayer is to bring my will to yours, and that without this it is folly to pray; when I try to bring your will to mine it is to command Christ, to be above him, and wiser than he: this is my sin and pride. I can only succeed when I pray according to your precept and promise, and to be done with as it pleases you, according to your sovereign will. When you command me to pray for pardon, peace, brokenness, it is because you will give me the thing promised, for your glory, as well as for my good. Help me not only to desire small things but with holy boldness to desire great things for your people, for myself, that they and I might live to show your glory. Teach me that it is wisdom for me to pray for all I have, out of love, willingly, not of necessity; that I may come to you at any time, to lay open my needs acceptably to you; that my great sin lies in my not keeping the savor of your ways; that the remembrance of this truth is one way to the sense of your presence; that there is no wrath like the wrath of being governed by my own lusts for my own ends.

(The Valley of Vision Prayer Book)

Ringling of Bell Judah Gosnell

Announcements..... Deacon

A Time for Praise:

Prelude

Call to Worship

Scripture and Prayer Pastor Lucas Mann

- *Hymn of Praise* *We Will Glorify* Hymn #105

A Time for Offering:

- *Offertory Hymn* *Shine, Jesus, Shine* Hymn #431

Offertory Prayer

Tithes and Offerings Ushers

A Time for Hearing God’s Word:

Choral Message *At the Foot of the Cross* Arr. Anderson

Message Pastor Lucas Mann

Pastoral Prayer

A Time for Surrender:

- *Hymn of Response* *Breathe on Me, Breath of God* Hymn #393

- Benediction

Postlude

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!” (2 Corinthians 13:14)

Affirmation of Faith – the Baptist Catechism, 1813

Q. What is the sixth commandment?

A. The sixth commandment is, “*Thou shalt not kill*” (Ex. 20:13).

Q. What is required in the sixth commandment?

A. The sixth commandment requires all lawful endeavors to preserve our own life (Eph. 5:28,29) and the life of others (1 Kings 18:4).

Q. What is forbidden in the sixth commandment?

A. The sixth commandment absolutely forbids the taking away of our own life, or the life of our neighbor unjustly, or whatsoever tends thereunto (Acts 26:28; Gen. 9:9).

Opportunities of the Week

Sunday, September 16

11:00 a.m. Budget/Leadership Vote
6:00 p.m. Choir Practice
7:00 p.m. Evening Service
7:00 p.m. Youth Ministry
7:00 p.m. Children’s Ministry
8:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting

Monday, September 17

5:00 p.m. Prayer Group 8

Wednesday, September 19

7:00 p.m. Budget Discussion/Bible Study

Saturday, September 22

8:00 a.m. Men’s Breakfast

Nursery this week:

Theresa Engel
Megan Balentine

Church Watch this month:

Larry Powell

The Marks of True Prayer

By Joel Beeke

1. True prayer brings heaven down into the soul and lifts the soul up to heaven.

2. True prayer is the prime exercise of faith where all saving graces converge to climax in both the highest expression of gratitude (to God) and the deepest expression of humility (with regard to ourselves), as well as the broadest expression of love (for others).

3. True prayer is real life. It is the “soul’s breathing itself into the bosom of its heavenly Father” (Thomas Watson).

4. True prayer is the sinner’s response to God’s voice. The prayer of the broken-hearted is a gift to God in reply to God’s gift of prayerful broken heartedness. True prayer is returning to God through the weaknesses and stains of human brokenness and unworthiness what God has decreed from all eternity, made room for in time, and brought to fruition in the moment of actual soul-wrestling.

5. True prayer is a holy art taught by a groaning, wrestling Spirit who often uses the impossibilities and apparent “artlessness” of the believer’s entangled and sin-stained life to pencil upon him the image of his worthy Master.

6. True prayer is spiritual air for spiritual lungs. Where prayerless praying overtakes prayerful praying, the true believer degenerates into listlessness.

7. True prayer is the fruit of God Triune – the Father as Giver and Decreeer, the Son as Meritor and Perfector, the Spirit as Wrestler and Indweller.

8. True prayer has an unexplainable way of augmenting both the worthiness of Christ and the unworthiness of the sinner; hence, it is both the chief part of humility and of thankfulness (cf. Heid. Cat. Q. 116).

9. True prayer is the believer’s greatest weapon in the armory of God. Puritan Thomas Lye confessed: “I had rather stand against the canons of the wicked than against the prayers of the righteous.”

10. True prayer does not preach to God. It does not lead by the hand but reaches for His guiding hand.

11. True prayer has more to do with God than man. It is wrapped up in holy concern for the glory and kingdom of God.

12. True prayer longs for revival. Its expectation is only in the Lord. When Adoniram Judson had labored for eight years without one apparent convert, his Mission Board sincerely asked him if he had any expectation left. An affirmative answer prompted the question: “But how great is your expectation?” Judson responded: “As great as the promises of God.”

13. True prayer does not focus upon itself or the petitioner. It does not turn inward for morbid introspection but turns inward to bring all the sinner’s deadness and depravity outward and upward to the Almighty God of grace.

14. True prayer lets God be God. It empties its hands and heart before the open throne of God. It hides nothing. True prayer is not explanation but petition. It doesn’t tell the Lord how to convert a sinner, but asks Him to do it, trusting He knows better than any petitioner.

15. True prayer spreads out everything before the Lord as if He knows nothing about the sinner's condition yet knowing that the Lord knows all.

16. True prayer conjoins holy reverence and holy familiarity with holy boldness.

17. True prayer is not self-congratulatory, but self-condemnatory and Christ-congratulatory.

18. True prayer recognizes that it changes neither God nor "things," while simultaneously realizing that God often is pleased to reach His purposes through the means of prayer.

19. True prayer is fellowshiping with God. It is a foretaste of heaven's eternal conversation.

20. True prayer is not a flurry of words in an ever-spiraling height of voice, but it is a matter of the heart in an ever-spiraling depth of meditation and pause before God.

21. True prayer ever feels that it is not sufficiently true, deep, thorough, and unbosoming.

22. True prayer, when neglected, is like an untapped power line, a disconnected computer, a system broken down. Valuable information neither descends or ascends.

23. True prayer dresses itself in words, but its body is wordless. It is heart-work. Hence, Bunyan rightly advises: "When thou prayest rather let thy heart be without words than thy words without a heart."

24. True prayer measures no need too great or too small. It neither assumes human probability nor flinches in the face of human impossibility.

25. True prayer senses the presence of divine majesty and human dust-and-ashes cohabiting. This cohabitation causes the sinner to take his shoes from off his feet, for the place of true prayer is holy ground.

26. True prayer pleases God. It shows Him the divine handwriting of Scripture and the divine signature of His covenant promises. As William Gurnall states: "Prayer is nothing but the promise reversed, or God's Word formed into an argument, and retorted by faith upon God again." John Trapp adds: "Prayer is putting the promises into suit."

27. True prayer profoundly feels that its trueness can only be validated by the praying High Priest, Christ Jesus, who salts imperfect petitions with the salt of His meritorious sufferings before presenting the church's prayers without spot or wrinkle in His holy Father's sight. Thomas Adam wrote: "I put my prayers into Christ's hands; and what may I not expect from them, when I have such an Advocate? Oh, be sure not to ask a little from God!"

28. True prayer brings particular requests and waits for particular answers. And they shall be answered – perhaps not immediately, but God's delays are not His denials. Scripture does say of the Canaanite woman's first pleading, "But He answered her not a word," but it does not say, "But he heard not a word." True prayer is never lost, even if it be forgotten. "God never denied that soul anything that went as far as heaven to ask it" (John Trapp).

29. True prayer "brings God into the heart and keeps sin out. . . . Prayer is knowing work, believing work, thanking work, searching work, humbling work, and nothing worth if heart and hand do not join in it. . . . Want felt and help desired, with faith to obtain it, is prayer. . . . One prayer is worth a thousand fine thoughts . . ." (Thomas Adam).

30. True prayer is bathed in faith. Faithless prayer is fruitless prayer, no matter how sincere it may be. True prayer is the fruit of true faith and true faith is the fruit of true prayer. Faith and prayer are best of friends who build up each other for they have a common goal – the glory of the worthy, Triune God.

31. True prayer is often short, frequent, and repetitive, sometimes hardly getting beyond the simple words, "Lord, Lord. . . have mercy."

32. True prayer for others also reaps great benefits for the petitioner in a feeling sense of his own closeness with God. True prayer can't intercede explicitly for others without praying implicitly for one's self.

33. True prayer is a joy in itself even when the answer to come may appear to contradict the very petitions offered.

We thank you for worshipping with us today. We trust that your heart has been encouraged, your spirit filled, and that you will leave here equipped for the work to which God has called you. If you would like to find out more information about Poplar Springs Baptist Church, please visit our website: www.poplarspringsws.org or call (864) 861-2196.

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Poplar Springs

Baptist Church



"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."
Philippians 4:6-7

THE LORD'S DAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2018

**6000 Poplar Springs Road
Ware Shoals, SC 29692
(864) 861-2196
www.poplarspringsws.org**

Interim Pastor Lucas Mann

Sunday School: 10:00 am

Worship: 11:00 am