

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Continuing in Prayer

Jesus taught us, *"When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."*

In our series *"You asked for it"* He showed us several examples of what *"The kingdom of heaven is like"* here on earth, and ways our prayer could be answered. (**Matt. 13 & 20**)

He also said, *"My house shall be called a house of prayer."* **Matthew 21:13**

- We're off to a good start, and plan to continue moving forward with some opportunities to pray together this month.

Beginning this Wednesday night, we will be hosting the prayer support for the *"**ever wonder?**"* Alpha course being offered at Cutter's Point in Olympic Village, **May 14th, 21st & 28th**.

- Please join our Wednesday night Life Group in **Coffee Corner** from **6:30 – 8:00**
- We'll view the video being shown, pray for the volunteers serving...
- And the people seeking God's meaning for life

Then, on **Sunday, May 25th** we'll initiate a monthly **"Hour of Prayer"** together after our morning worship service.

Our prayers will proceed from the foundation Jesus gave us to pray, *"Our Father."*

- Our path to praying "Our Father" is no small journey
- It begins where the beginning began

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Genesis 1:26-27, Then God said, *"Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

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Genesis 2:15-25, Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, *"Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; **but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat**, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

And Adam said:

*"This is now bone of my bones
And flesh of my flesh;
She shall be called Woman,
Because she was taken out of Man."
Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother
and be joined to his wife, and they shall become
one flesh.
And **they were both naked**, the man and his wife,
and were not ashamed.*

Genesis 3:1-8, *Now the serpent was more cunning
than any beast of the field which the Lord God had
made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed
said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the
garden'?"*

*And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat
the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit
of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God
has said, 'You shall not eat it, **nor shall you touch it**,
lest you die.'"*

*Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not
surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of
it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God,
knowing good and evil." So **when the woman saw**
that the tree was good for food, that
it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to
make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She
also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.*

***Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and**
they knew that they were naked; and they sewed
fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.
And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking
in the garden in the cool of the day, **and Adam and**
his wife hid themselves from the presence of
the Lord God among the trees of the garden.*

What difference did it make that Eve added, **"nor shall you touch it"** to what God had said?

- So when the woman saw (through her definitions, not God's word) that the

*tree was good for food, that it was pleasant
to the eyes, and a tree desirable to
make one wise...*

- As soon as we decide to act **independently of God...**
- We become vulnerable to acting **contrary to God**

John 1:1, *In the beginning was the Word, and
the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

- There is no wisdom contrary to God
- His word is His wisdom

Proverbs 30:6, *Do not add to His words, lest He
rebuke you, and you be found a liar.*

- Lying on its own makes us unbelievable
- Lying about God's word misrepresents who He is

"The sound of the Lord God" can be understood as
the voice of the Lord

"in the cool of the day" can be understood as **the breeze**, or **wind**

- Wind, or breeze are often used to represent
The Holy Spirit

It is widely thought to be indicated that it was
God's custom to walk and talk with them in the
garden in the evening.

- They may have anticipated Him

What happened to their relationship with The Father?

Because of their disobedience, for the first time
they had become **Self-Aware...**

- Previously, **they had been God aware**

Prior to sin, they were **God aware** only...

- And saw themselves in the light of **who God is**

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Sin made them **self-aware** first...

- And they **now saw God** through the corruption of **who they now were**
- They were no longer able to approach God with confidence

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Jesus taught us to pray, *"Our Father in heaven"* with Him

- After He first taught us, *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven."*

Matthew 5:3

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Blessed are those who know they are impoverished before God on their own

- That frees them from **false, self-confidence** before God
- With the confidence of **absolute reliance on** The Father

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What tempted and robbed them of confidence with God?

- The deception of self-reliance & independence

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Ephesians 2:8-9 remind us, *For by grace you have been saved through faith, **and that not of yourselves**; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

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As children of Adam & Eve, we are now naturally self-aware

- But we can approach God in prayer confidently **having abandoned all of our self...**
- To be thankful, and in **complete dependence** on the grace of God, in faith

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"Our Father in heaven" translates to...

- **Who is God**, and **who am I in relationship to Him?**

- Because of what The Son of God has done for me.
- When we rightly understand that...
- We are free and unashamed in His presence

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John 5:19, *Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, **the Son can do nothing of Himself**, but what He sees the Father do"*

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John 20:21, *Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! **As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.**"*

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Complete surrender, reliance & dependence on The Father

- Empowers us with the **freedom & confidence** of Christ in prayer
- **John 14:13-14**, "And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do *it*."

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Ever Wonder?