

Crosspoint NGQ's • January 30, 2008

Lesson aim: To discuss the effectiveness of our prayer lives and what we can do to improve it.

Open

1. Can you think of a promise made that you are still holding? How about a promise that you failed to keep? PT made the point that we make far more promises than we even realize. Do you agree/disagree? Explain. What difference does this make?
2. God is the promise maker and promise keeper. In what way do the promises of God impact your prayer life, if at all?

Dig

3. From 1 Kings 18:41-46, PT talked about the connection between the promise of God (18:1) and the prayer of Elijah (18:41-46). As you listened to the message and read the passage, what do you see the connection to be?
4. PT talked about three questions to ask yourself in relation to your prayer habits:
 - a. Do you pray with desperation (18:41-42)? What role does distraction play in your prayer life? What is the connection between our lack of answer to prayers and our dependent praying?
 - b. Do you pray with expectation (18:43)? This question requires honesty with yourself and our group: Do you consider yourself to be a believer who prays fully expecting the answers to your prayers, or is there an aspect to your prayer life that struggles with this? Do you avoid praying for certain things because you are pretty convinced God is not going to answer that? If so, can you give an example?
 - c. Do you pray with focus (18:44-46)? Elijah remained focused on specific prayer until his prayer was answered. He was persistent. In what ways do we get distracted from truly focused prayer? What role do humility and seclusion play in focused prayer? In other words, do the attributes of humbleness and getting alone and quiet with God make a difference with focused prayer make a difference? In what way?

Reflect

5. On a scale of 1-10, how would you say your prayer life has been as you have prayed for Crosspoint to grow (Keep the three questions mentioned in the message as you answer this question)? If your number is low, why haven't we prayed desperately, expectantly and focused more for our church to grow? If your number is high, what would you attribute that to?
6. What promises has God made that Crosspoint can claim that should influence our prayers much like the promise of God influenced the prayers of Elijah?
7. Close your group meeting by praying specifically for the growth of Crosspoint. Consider making a commitment as a group as to how you will pray corporately and individually for Crosspoint during the month of February.

