

“Yeah, I do and I don’t know what to make of it, because I feel like a hypocrite. And – but I only do when I’m at my most scared or my most fearful, and ... my most vulnerable. And like I said, I don’t know what to do with that because it really does not align with anything that I’ve said all day today, yet I still find myself doing that.”

– David Greene, NPR, “On Religion, Some Young People Show Both Doubt And Respect: (1/17/2013)

A Mighty Weapon

Prayer is a mighty weapon if it is done in the right mindset. Prayer is so strong that continual pleas have overcome shamelessness, injustice, and savage cruelty.... It has also overcome laziness and things that friendship could not bring about. For, “although he will not give him because he is a friend, yet because of his appeals he will rise and give to him” [Luke 11:8]. In addition, continual requests made an unworthy woman worthy....

Let us pray diligently. Prayer is a mighty weapon if used with earnestness and sincerity, without drawing attention to ourselves. It has turned back wars and benefited an entire undeserving nation.... So then, if we pray with humility, beating our chests like the tax gatherer and saying what he did, “Be merciful to me a sinner,” we will obtain everything we ask for.... We need much repentance, beloved, much prayer, much endurance, and much perseverance to gain the good things that have been promised to us.

– John Chrysostom

News:

Please attend this evening’s services. We will learn what our Lord is accomplishing through our brothers and sisters working together on the Navajo Nation – and through our support of that work.

Please bring finger foods this evening for an after-services fellowship with Dan and Rose.

Please continue to pray for Tatyana’s daughter Olga who is undergoing treatments for cancer.

Prayer List:

Healing: Jerry Robinson’s daughter Christie, Jerry Robinson’s mother Norma. Mike Cavasos, Sandy Cavasos, Ben Atchley, Faye Atchley, Nicolas and Annie Self, Douglas and Jonda Gardner, Dave Morse, Richard Tuey.

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Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

28 April 2013

Sermon Topics

A.M.: The Antichrist

1 John 2:18-27

P.M.: Guest Speaker. Dan Keele

Pulpit Evangelist

Ken Knowlton: 428-5974

Elders

Ben Atchley: 428-2246

Greg Briggs: 428-8756

John Cunningham: 428-0895

Services

Sunday Bible Class	10:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:30 P.M.
Wednesday Evening Class	6:30 P.M.
Thursday Ladies Bible Class	10:00 A.M.

Praise the Lord

Miles Custis, Bible Study Magazine, March/April 2013
on Psalm 146.

Psalm 146 is a praise psalm. The psalmist leads worshipers by encouraging them to “Praise the LORD.” The well-known Hebrew phrase “Hallelujah” opens and closes the psalm. This phrase isn’t just an offering of praise – it is a command directed at God’s people that they “Praise the LORD.” What does “praise” mean to you? In what ways and situations do you praise God? How are you neglecting to do so?

The psalmist speaks about trusting in princes (146:3-4). Why would the psalmist warn against putting your trust in another person? Who should we trust instead? Compare Psalm 20:7. Have there been times when you put your trust in people (including yourself) rather than God? What actions can you take to trust God fully?

Psalm 146:5 says that those who put their hope in the LORD are “blessed.” Write down all the ways the psalmist describes God (146:6-7). What aspects of this description give you the most confidence about your hope in God?

How does God's role as creator contrast with the "princes" of 146:3-4?

The psalmist praises the actions of the LORD (146:7-9). What type of people does God help? Which of these groups do you relate to? How do these actions reflect God's character? How does God's concern for the downtrodden encourage you to praise Him?

For more praise psalms, read Psalms 8, 103, 111 and 148. Which aspects of God's character do these psalms emphasize? How are these psalms different? How are they similar? How do they encourage you to praise God?

Ways To Pray

Miles Custis

We often think of worship as joyful noises and hands lifted in praise. Expressions of grief, frustration and fear don't fit the mold of worship – they're often sorted out privately.

The Psalms challenge our modern constructs about emotions. They give voice to the joyful and desperate cries of an ancient people in a manner that many of us would hesitate to express today. The Psalms abandon the façades for complete authenticity before God. They certainly express praise with songs that recount God's creative work and His acts throughout history (Pss 104-106), but they also capture the raw and almost hostile cries of people who struggle to understand God's work. Lament psalms question God's reasons for perceived abandonment ("Why have you forsaken me?" in Psa 22:1). Some psalms reveal people's feelings about their faith struggles, as they question why the wicked prosper or wrestle with the reality of exile (Pss 73, 137).

The Psalms show us the great intimacy we have with God through our words of expression, from songs of praise to cries of desperation accompanied by demands that God take action. Because they were part of Israel's worship, the Psalms also illustrate how open and honest we can be. No matter what situation we are facing, the turmoil, joy or confusion we experience as a result can be brought to Him.

God wants to hear from His people, whether we are joyful or sad, confident or shaken, thankful or despairing. The ancient Israelites praised God and boldly cried out to Him, but you have an even greater guarantee that He will hear you – Christ's sacrifice and mediating work (1 Tim 2:5; Heb 8:6). You can also approach God confidently because Jesus, who was tempted and tried just like you, sympathizes with your weaknesses (see Heb 4:14-16). So cry out to Him. And may you have confidence that He will hear you – heart overflowing with praise or overcome with grief. May you bring all things to Him.

MAY 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Karen Tree's birthday	9	10	11
12 Mother's Day Cassandra Kescoli's birthday	13	14 Bob Benitez' birthday	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 Connie Mayo's birthday	22 Pete Waller's birthday	23	24 Clay Cocke's birthday	25
26	27 Memorial Day	28 Chad Cavasos' birthday	29 Brian and Billy Martin's anniv.	30	31	

Young Adults Wrestle with Faith and Prayer

NPR interviewed a number of young adults who are drifting from organized religion. A 26-year-old participant named Kyle Simpson grew up with Christian roots, but like many young adults, he's neglected his his faith – although he can't quite get over it. Simpson said:

"Last year when I turned 26, I had my mini-existential crisis when I realized, oh my gosh, what's going to happen when I die? Am I just going to end up in the ground and like everything I've worked for, all my memories, are for naught? I still have that feeling every once in a while in the stereotypical moments when you're like sitting alone in the dark and you can't go to bed and you start thinking about that. But I don't know if that's emptiness. That's more just fear that I hope others have."

When the interviewer asked, "Do you pray?" Simpson replied,