

## Part 11 | Praying in Real Life

Acts 4:23-31

### When life gets **CRAZY** (v. 23-24)

(and when it's not!)

let's review... Acts 3:1-4:22

life together Galatians 6:2; Hebrews 10:24-25; Colossians 1:10ff

### pray **REAL** prayers (v. 24-30)

trusting God John 14:13-14; 15:16; 16:23-24, 26

facing reality James 4:2-3

### and watch **GOD WORK!** (v. 31)

in the midst John 17:15

in **you!** Romans 8:28-29



Text us at **833-271-8805**.

Text this number anytime for prayer. Just say, "**Pray for...**" followed by your request.

Or if you just need someone to talk to, start texting us with whatever's going on and someone will be in touch via text.

# P. R. A. Y.

A HELPFUL WAY TO PRAY

Use the acronym "P.R.A.Y." to shape the way you pray. . .

## P | Praise

Psalm 150:6 says, "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!" Giving praise to God is the most commonly given commandment in the Bible. It is not a suggestion! We are to praise God, the Creator and sustainer of all things, for his good gifts we receive every day. Praise is a great way to begin prayer.

**Praise focuses our minds on Christ rather than ourselves.**

**Praise affects our feelings, causing deep affection for God.**

**Praise is preferable to despair, and changes your thinking.**

## R | Repent

Revival is always preceded by repentance. Confession of sin and acknowledgment of the need for God to work in our lives begins in prayer. Be specific. True confession is to say the same thing about your sin that God says about it.

**Ask for and give forgiveness to others.**

**Clear your conscience, go make things right if needed.**

## A | Ask

This tends to be the place most of us begin in prayer. There is absolutely nothing wrong with doing this. It just shouldn't be the entirety of what prayer is in your life!

In John 14:13-14, John tells us that God invites us to ask him for things, "Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it." Asking God for the things we need is wise and necessary.

**Pray in faith & according to God's will.**

**Pray with patience, trusting God's timing and presence.**

## Y | Yield

When entering into prayer, even if there are things we're asking for, we should do so with a posture of yielding to whatever it is that God wants to do in, for, and through us to grow his kingdom. Ask away, but yield to God's plan not your demands.

**Yield when you are unsure...** Ask him to reveal his will regardless of what it may look like.

**Yield when you don't want to...** Yield to his will—it is better for you than what you want anyway.

*Adapted from an article from College Park Church Resources. Find the original at <https://cpresources.net/p-r-a-y-a-prayer-acronym-for-daily-life/>*



Grow.

## Food for Thought

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

**What is this?** – Normally this section includes questions and a study for our Life Groups. If you're not in one, you should sign up in the Commons, let us know on a Connect Card, or contact the church office! Instead, this is a smaller study and some questions for you to reflect/journal on throughout the week.

### Food for Thought...

1. Josh talked about focusing on the sovereignty of God as one of the remedies for fear, worry, and anxiety when life gets crazy (and even when it's not). One of the best chapters in the Bible for gaining a perspective on God's sovereignty is **Isaiah 40**. This passage compares God's power to things we can understand. Take some time to read through **Isaiah 40:9-31** and jot down all it says about how big, powerful, and in control God is. Maybe highlight or circle every instance you see of this in this passage in your bible.

*In what ways can a greater understanding of God's sovereignty help you to trust Him and His perfect timing more?*

2. Jesus directly addressed the issue of worry and anxiety in **Luke 12:22-31**. As you read the passage, what reasons do you see for not worrying?

*How would you summarize what this passage says about worry and anxiety in one sentence?*

*How could this passage help you deal with worry and anxiety?*

3. Josh talked about praying and trusting God in a way that faces reality rather than simply trying to escape it. God promises over and over to be with us *through* and *in the midst* of every situation we face. Sometimes he does rescue us out of it (which is fantastic!), but **most of the time, he is with us through it**.

**Jeremiah 29** contains one of the most quoted verses (29:11) in all of Scripture... but it's often misunderstood or misused because we forget the context.

Here's the context... Israel was in the midst of possibly the worst moment in all their history. They were just conquered by King Nebuchadnezzar and taken by military force out of their homeland (one God had promised to them) and made to resettle in a foreign land far away from all they knew. It was a time full of chaos, sin, heartbreak, and despair. Yet God comes and says, "I still have plans for you. I'm going to bring you back home. But it's going to take 70 years in this foreign land (a consequence of your sin) before I do."

God goes on to give them instruction on how to live in the mean time, and how he'll be with them through it all, even though it's a reality they'd much rather run from and escape.

*(Food for Thought continues on back panel...)*

# Welcome to Wawasee!

## OUR MISSION

We are sent to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.

## YOUR PATHWAY

If you call Wawasee Bible “home”, we challenge you to pursue three things:

### 1. Gather



Show up *regularly* and gather with us for worship.

### 2. Grow



Don't just show up, *grow up* spiritually and connect in a growth ministry like Life Groups.

### 3. Go!



Go and serve somewhere. Contribute as much *or more than* you consume!

## Word Find in the Word

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

### Word Find for Philippians 4:4-8 (ESV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

<sup>4</sup> **Rejoice** in the Lord always; again I will say, **rejoice**. <sup>5</sup> Let your **reasonableness** be **known** to **everyone**. The Lord is at **hand**; <sup>6</sup> do not be **anxious** about **anything**, but in **everything** by **prayer** and **supplication** with **thanksgiving** let your **requests** be **made known** to God. <sup>7</sup> And the **peace** of God, which **surpasses** all **understanding**, will **guard** your **hearts** and your **minds** in **Christ Jesus**. <sup>8</sup> **Finally, brothers**, whatever is **true**, whatever is **honorable**, whatever is **just**, whatever is **pure**, whatever is **lovely**, whatever is **commendable**, if **there** is any excellence, if **there** is **anything** worthy of praise, think about these things.

T U N D E R S T A N D I N G C  
H A N D V E U A N X I O U S F  
E K L W E A P L Y M A D E G J  
R N M C R S P W T R U E P N E  
E O I M Y O L A H H D V R T S  
B W N P T N I Y I E X E A L U  
R N D E H A C S N A F R Y O S  
O G S A I B A G G R I Y E V C  
T U F C N L T U C T N O R E L  
H H S E G E I A N S A N E L A  
E F U H O N O R A B L E Q Y G  
R C O M M E N D A B L E U K A  
S U R P A S S E S L Y T E J I  
T H A N K S G I V I N G S U N  
P U R E J O I C E J U G T S H  
L L O R D R T I C H R I S T C

## Food for Thought (continued)

What the context in mind, take time to read through **Jeremiah 29:1-11** below.

- Every time you see God speaking truth about their reality, and/or promising to be with them in the midst of their reality **highlight** or **circle it**.
- Each time you see someone speaking fantasy, trying to escape reality and offer false hope, **draw a line through it**.

<sup>1</sup> Jeremiah wrote a letter from Jerusalem to the elders, priests, prophets, and all the people who had been exiled to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar. <sup>2</sup> This was after King Jehoiachin, the queen mother, the court officials, the other officials of Judah, and all the craftsmen and artisans had been deported from Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> He sent the letter with Elash son of Shaphan and Gemariah son of Hilkiyah when they went to Babylon as King Zedekiah's ambassadors to Nebuchadnezzar. This is what Jeremiah's letter said:

<sup>4</sup> This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies, the God of Israel, says to all the captives he has exiled to Babylon from Jerusalem: <sup>5</sup> "Build homes, and plan to stay. Plant gardens, and eat the food they produce.

<sup>6</sup> Marry and have children. Then find spouses for them so that you may have many grandchildren. Multiply! Do not dwindle away! <sup>7</sup> And work for the peace and prosperity of the city where I sent you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, for its welfare will determine your welfare."

<sup>8</sup> This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies, the God of Israel, says: "Do not let your prophets and fortune-tellers who are with you in the land of Babylon trick you. Do not listen to their dreams, <sup>9</sup> because they are telling you lies in my name. I have not sent them," says the Lord.

<sup>10</sup> This is what the Lord says: "You will be in Babylon for seventy years. But then I will come and do for you all the good things I have promised, and I will bring you home again. <sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

**JEREMIAH 29:1-11 (NLT)**

- As you think about your own reality... When you pray, are you trusting God to be with you through it all? Or are you simply looking for ways to escape reality?
- How does this change your understanding of God's promise in Jeremiah 29:11?

Questions 1 and 2 of this week's Food for Thought are adapted in part from a study by North Coast Church in Vista, CA. North Coast is a sister church of Wawasee Bible and part of the EFCA.



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at [wawaseebible.com/beliefs](http://wawaseebible.com/beliefs). Learn more about the EFCA at [efca.org](http://efca.org).

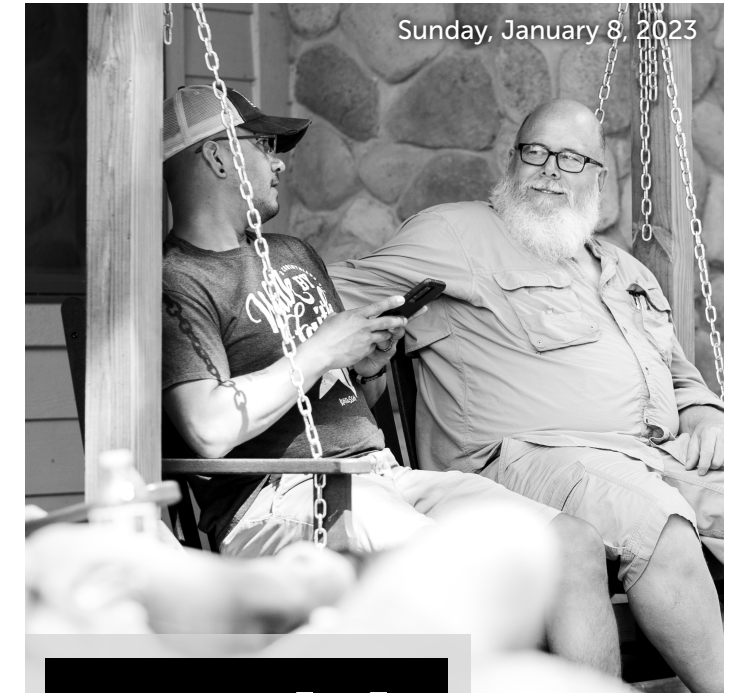
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# ACTS

EMPOWERED FOR JESUS'S MISSION

Sunday, January 8, 2023



PART 11

Praying in Real Life



ACTS 4:23-31



**We're Glad You're Here Today!**

Please register your attendance on our **digital Connect Card** by scanning the QR code with your phone's camera, or by visiting **wawasee.today** in your web browser. Update your contact info, share prayer requests, or just let us know how we can serve you! You can also access today's bulletin using the same QR or link.