



LIFEGROUPS

Series: *Godspeak*

Scripture: *Matthew 6:10*

Date: September 21-22, 2019

Message: *Praying By Faith*

—[LET'S START]—

At this week's services we talked about the importance of praying by faith. Think back over the course of your life. What are some of the times in your life where you saw your faith most stretched?

—[LET'S TALK]—

1. **GRATITUDE AND PRAYER:** What happened last week for which you are thankful? What challenges do you see in your life? Your family? The World? Thank God for the beautiful ways that He has been at work. Pray for the challenges that those in your group are currently facing.
2. Read Matthew 6:9-13. Now, take some time to focus on verse 10. What does it mean for "your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."
3. Read Hebrews 11:6. What does this verse teach us about faith? How would you define faith? When is it most difficult for you to exhibit faith?
4. Read Ephesians 2:1-10. What does this passage teach us about our future hope and present reality as followers of Christ?

Focus on verse six. What does it mean to be seated in Christ Jesus?
5. Pastor Dale used Tony Bennett's classic song, *I Left My Heart in San Francisco* to illustrate what a believer's attitude should be towards heaven. How can we become so enthralled with heaven that it holds our affections? How can we live as people who are not held captive by the lures of this world, but recognize that secret to living is not from the past, not from the present but from the future – God's future?
6. Read Philippians 4:4-7. Keep in mind that this passage was written from a prison cell. How does our faith in Christ impact the way we live our lives today?
7. What is one lesson about faith that you want to apply to your life this week?

—[LET'S ACT]—

Sometimes it can be difficult to see the good that God is producing in us. Let's end our time today by sharing how we see Christ at work in each other. Take time to affirm each person in the group, saying what it is that you are grateful for God producing in them.

—[SERMON REVIEW]—

- Prayer without faith is empty and useless.
- Many of us get discouraged by our current circumstances. Sometimes that is because we are focused on the wrong thing. What if we started with the finish line? What if we prayed, "May Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven?" Jesus' starting point was heaven!
- The direction of blessings always flows from heaven to earth. We see this from the OT to the NT.
- The power of our prayers is directly related to what we believe about God.
- When we are converted, God takes our heart and puts it in heaven with Christ. This world has no claim on our affections. It's a foreign land. We are exiles and aliens. We are here, but we are really there, in Christ.
- Rabbi Cahn writes, "Every problem you have will be answered, either in heaven or before. So the secret is to live not from the problem, but from the problem solved, from the answer, before the answer. You must choose to live not from your present crisis, but from its future overcoming, not from your present obstacle, but from its future breakthrough!"
- If you are praying according to the will of God, you are praying for what already is! It's like you're running a race you've already run, or fighting a battle you've already fought and won.
- Starting from the finish line allows me to have joy and confidence even though I'm here, because I really know that I'm there!
- "You don't attain heaven. You let heaven attain you."
- Instead of trying to be holy, pure and good you let the Holy One, the Pure One and the Good One be holy, pure and good through you. You start from Him and not yourself.
- So what does it mean to pray with faith? It means to begin with God and not yourself and to believe what already is true but has not been fully realized yet.

—[NOTES]—
