



LIFEGROUPS

Series: *Godspeak*
Message: *The Journey of Prayer*

Scripture: *2 Corinthians 1:8-11, Acts 27*

Date: September 28-29, 2019

—[LET'S START]—

This week's guest speaker, Chris Payne, began his sermon by talking about a conversation he had with Pastor Dale about ten years ago. He was at a crossroads in life and Pastor Dale's advice was that he do whatever required the most faith. What are some of the decisions that you have made over the course of your life that required the most faith?

—[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 2 Corinthians 1:8-11. What does this passage teach us about the importance of prayer? How have you seen prayer make a difference in your life and in the lives of those that you love?
3. Read Acts 27. This is a long passage that details some of the challenges that Paul and his companions face on their third missionary journey. Luke devotes 59 verses(continues into chapter 28) to Paul's journey to Rome. What does this chapter teach us about the journey of prayer?

In verses 4-20 we see several challenges that Paul and his companions faced on this journey. See how many that you can find. How do some of the challenges that Paul and his companions faced parallel the challenges that you face in life?

In his message, Pastor Chris said, "God does his best work when we think the challenges to our journey will be the end of us." How have you experienced this in your life? (see Acts 27:20)

4. In verses 22-26, we see some promises in Paul's perilous journey. What do you see portrayed?
Look at the end of verse 25. How can our faith impact others?

5. Reads Acts 28:1-16. Despite the difficulties in their journey, God answered prayer. Paul arrived at Rome. What are some of the blessings that Paul and others would have missed out on if God had just allowed Paul to experience smooth sailing? What are some of the gifts that God has given to you in the trials of life that you have faced?

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—[LET'S ACT]—

This week's big lesson was that, "prayer is the journey between my heart and God's heart." God is inviting each one of us to join God on the journey. Sometimes it's in the biggest storms of life, when it feels like all hope is gone, that God's promises are most clearly seen. Prayer takes us out of our current circumstances and into the eternal heart of God. So, who do you know right now that is facing an incredibly difficult storm? Let's take some time today to pray for those facing some of life's most difficult storms.

—[SERMON REVIEW]—

- Chris Payne's Top Takeaways from the GodSpeak Series:
 - Prayer is a connection with God
 - What makes God powerful is your knowledge of God. (Tim Keller)
 - The Pocket Prayer: "Father you are good, I need your help, heal me and forgive me. They need your help. Thank you in Jesus name. Amen."
 - The power of your prayers is going to be determined by your confidence in God's word.
- The apostle Paul is a model to us on the journey of prayer. In his own missionary journeys, Paul learned to rely on the power of prayer.
- Paul knew the importance of Prayer.
- Journey is defined as: "The passage from one place to another."
- Prayer is the journey between My heart and God's heart.
- At a literary level, the journey to Rome is written in a way that indicates how far and difficult it is to take the gospel to the "ends of the earth." Paul's journey was both a: 1. Literal and 2. Metaphorical picture about the difficulty of living on gospel mission.
- Luke summarizes with this simple statement in Acts 27:4b, "...the winds were against us." Have you ever felt like the "winds are against you?"
- There were several challenges to Paul's Journey (Acts 27:4-20)
 - The winds were against us – vs. 4b
 - The progress was slow – vs. 7a
 - The winter was upon us – vs. 9-12
 - The storm – vs. 14-20
 - Acts 27:20: "When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest lay on us, ***all hope of our being saved was at last abandoned.***"
- God does his best work when we think the challenges to our journey will be the end of us.
- The hope we have in Christ...doesn't pay attention to or depend on our circumstances.
 - Prayer takes us out of our current circumstances and into the eternal heart of God.
 - The winds were against Paul...but God was for Him.
- There are some promises in the journey too. (Acts 27:22-26)
 - God's promises are most clearly seen in Life's challenges.

