

**Scott's Thoughts** by Scott Deneen, Pastor to Youth and Families

*This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 1 John 5:14*

## Upcoming Youth Events

### Youth Group

Middle & High School

#### Sunday Night

Bible Study  
6:00 - 7:30pm

#### Wednesday Night

Open Gym, Eat Out, etc.  
6:30 - 8:00pm

### Children's Ministry

#### Sunday Nights

##### Nursery

Infant - 2 yrs.  
6:00 - 7:30pm

##### Preschool Age

3 yrs. - Kindergarten  
6:00 - 7:30pm

##### Imagebearers

1st - 5th grade  
6:00 - 7:30pm



Photo compliments of James Guffey

**PRAYER** is one of those things we hear about all our lives - and practice fairly often - but when it comes right down to it, we may not know much about it. Many times I've heard prayer explained as "just talking to God." And while that is definitely true - God is a personal Being who communicates to us and to whom we can speak - there are other factors that need to be addressed besides the general idea of talking with God.

What are some of those other factors? Well, to answer that question, let's begin with a statement of what prayer is. My definition comes from the **Westminster Shorter Catechism**: "Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God for things agreeable to His will, in the Name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of His mercies." [The following verses are used to support that definition if you'd like to look them up - Psalm 62:8; 1 John 5:14; John 16:23; Psalm 32:5-6; Daniel 9:4; Philippians 4:6.]

So, what should be the **content** of my talks with God? Should I just pray for whatever's on my mind? Not necessarily. The content of our prayers should focus on God's Will and Word. God is bringing to pass His divine Will and nothing else, so we, as His people, should pray in accord with His purposes. What are some of these purposes? First and foremost that His Name would be hallowed (glorified); that Christ would be exalted among the nations; that the nations would be converted; that the Church would be pure and peaceable; and that every person for whom Christ died would persevere in faith until the end. [Those are just a few.]

What should be my **attitude** when I approach God? My attitude should be both bold and humble. We can be bold because Jesus has completely satisfied God on our behalf so when we come to God through Christ, God readily accepts & receives us - not because of who we are but because of who Jesus is and what He accomplished for us. Coming boldly demonstrates our faith in the sufficiency of Christ. We come humbly, too, however, because it was **Christ** who opened the door to God's throne room and not us. Pride is inappropriate when praying.

What should be the **frequency** of my prayers? The Bible says we are to "pray without ceasing." [1 Thessalonians 5:17]. Therefore, we can discern from God's Word that He wants us to be in constant dialogue with Him. [We talk on our cell phones a lot, so this one shouldn't be hard!] God is a Person who is interested in His people and what they're going through each day. Christ's work on the cross has brought God's people back into fellowship with God, so let's take full advantage of this greatest of all blessings - restored relationship with God.

Hope this helps your prayer life be all it should & can be!

Pastor Scott

## Kids ask tough questions...

At the Basketball clinic, players were given an "Open Mike" opportunity to ask our pastors a question. Here's one answered by Pastor Dave.



### Q. Can God make Himself alive again?

**Yes, He already did!** Jesus said He'd die, "*I lay down my life for the sheep*" (John 10:15); He died, Jesus *gave up His Spirit* (John 19:30); AND, He rose from the dead - The angel told the women, "*Don't be afraid, I know you're looking for Jesus... He's not here; He has risen.*" (Matthew 28:5-6) THEN, *He appeared to more than five hundred ... at the same time* (1 Corinthians 15:6).

All that said, God the Father and God the Holy Spirit never died, only God the Son, Jesus, died and rose again... but the Three-in-One God is a question for another day.

## NATIONAL STANDARD FOR YOUTH SPORTS



### Standard #1 Quality Sports Environment

Youth sports programs must be developed and organized to ensure, as well as to enhance, the emotional, physical, social and educational well-being of children.

### Standard #2 Sports participation should be fun and a portion of the child's life

Youth sports are only one portion of a child's life that must be balanced with other social and educational experiences and activities.

### Standard #3 Training and Accountability

Adults involved with youth sports must receive training and important information about the program and must be held accountable for their behavior.

### Standard #4 Screening Process

To ensure the safety and well being of children in youth sports, individuals with regular, repetitive access or contact with children must complete the screening process.

### Standard #5 Parents Commitment

Parents/guardians must take an active and positive role in their child's youth sports experiences.

### Standard #6 Sportsmanship

Everyone involved in youth sports programs should exhibit positive sportsmanship behavior at all times.

### Standard #7 Safe Playing Environment

Youth sports programs must provide safe playing facilities and equipment, healthful playing situations and proper first aid applications, should the need arise.

### Standard #8 Equal Play Opportunity

Parents, coaches and league administrators must provide equal play opportunity for all youth regardless of race, creed, sex, economic status or ability.

### Standard #9 Drug, Tobacco, Alcohol and Performance Enhancement-Free Environment

Parents, coaches, officials, fans, players and administrators must be drug, tobacco, alcohol and performance enhancer free at youth sports activities.

Matthew 19:14

Jesus said, "Let  
the little  
children come to  
me, and do not  
hinder them, for  
the kingdom of  
heaven belongs to  
such as these."



Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

#### Morning Service

- 8:30 Worship Service
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship Service

#### Evening Service

- 6:00 Care Groups
- Image Bearers
- 6:00 Youth Group

Call us at 704.263.4275

Visit us online at

[www.fpcstanley.org](http://www.fpcstanley.org)

- Team Rosters
- Game Schedule
- Parent's Corner

Photo compliments of James Guffey

