

Vancleave Church of Christ

Prayer Requests and Announcements

12 February 2023

Sermon Title: Draw Near To God

Scripture: James 4:7, 8a

Elsie Ashcraft: Elsie still suffers from having had COVID -19. She appreciates all our prayers.

April Bakker: April has been sick and is in need of our prayers. Let's remember her in our prayers.

Ariel Brown & Shelby Brown: Surgery was successful, but they are not feeling well at this time.

Barbara Patton: Barbara's foot continues to heal and she is improving in her mobility.

The husband of Ethal Beaty (of Crossville, TN): He has recently been diagnosed with Parkinson's. Ethal is a long-time friend of Charlene.

Sue Whatley: Sue has two damaged vertebrae and her Alzheimer's continues to increase.

Mike Inabinette: Completed week two of immunotherapy and is still in need of our prayers.

Jerry Mobley: Jerry has returned home and is recovering. Let's remember Jerry and Virginia in prayer.

Ongoing Prayers (Please see earlier Prayer Requests for details)

David Robinson	August Hart	Ingelise Myrick	Naomi Waitrous
Murray Davidson	Susan Flurry	Frank Sentelle	Maxine Robinson
Pete Hankins	Frieda Wilson	Darlene Hannah	Paul Myrick
Ashley McGriff	Darrell McCormick	Charlotte Rashun	Zenie George
Gerardo Ranario	Dot Catchot	Heath Smith	Andi Barrett
Virginia Dickerson	Jesse & Sharon Owens	Sandra Roberson	Earl and Linda Kenney
Mike Kenney	Suzette Saucier	Gary Mitchell	Rick Bedwell

A Word of Encouragement for the Week Ahead

Nations rise and fall – but we who serve the Lord are citizens in an unshakable Kingdom!

“...we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken...”

(Hebrews 12:28, NKJV)

ANNOUNCEMENTS / OTHER

- Today is the first day of our returning to our traditional way of observing the Lord's supper and taking up the contribution. However, you are welcome to continue with the personal communion packets, as your conscience dictates.

“The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.”

(Nahum 1:7, KJV)

Our Human Fear and God's Divine Faithfulness Toward Us

On Mount Carmel one man, Elijah, stood before four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, along with four hundred prophets of the groves; not to mention King Ahab, his army, and the majority of Israel's citizens.

"Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the Lord; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men." (1 Kings 18:22)

Ultimately, God demonstrated, in a mighty way, that He is the only true God: "And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The Lord, he is the God; the Lord, he is the God." (1 Kings 18:39)

Elijah, like Moses, Aaron, Eli, and many other great heroes of the Old Testament times had weaknesses. When pursued by Jezebel, Ahab's wife, he ran to the wilderness in a futile attempt to escape her armies but was there met by God; afterward, Elijah realized his dependence on God.

Similar to Elijah, only when we realize our weakness can God empower us with His strength. God worked through Elijah, and He will work through us if we will surrender, completely, our lives to Him (cf., 1 Peter 5:6).

In faithfulness to God, Elijah faced what, to many of us, might seem terrifying! But rather than allow himself to be governed by his own fears for safety or desire for comfort, ultimately, he chose to obey God and to remain loyal to Him.

Are you sometimes afraid to let others know about your faith in God? Worried that you may be ridiculed, laughed at, or even persecuted for your loyalty to the Jesus Christ? Take courage, dear friend! Jesus said in 2 Timothy 3:12: "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

You may feel alone or like no one understands why you choose to follow Christ. Know this: regardless of consequences, we can take courage from the word of God as written in Deuteronomy 31:6: "Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."

~ Adapted

A Note from Your Preacher

One of the greatest opportunities the Lord affords each of us is the ability and reason to be grateful. Paul wrote, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you (1 Thessalonians 5:18, ESV). This may be one of those "easier said than done" activities! Let's look to our Lord for help this week (and always) as we develop this "attitude of gratitude" in our everyday lives. ~ DP