

BRIDGING THE GAP

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From the Pastor's Desk

"Pray or Act? Four Principles for Deciding"

Joshua 8: 1-2 "Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, take all the people of war with you and arise, go up to Ai, See, I have given into your hand the kind of Ai, his people, his city and his land, And you shall do to Ai and its king as you did to Jericho and its king. Only its spoil and its cattle you shall take as booty for yourselves. Lay an ambush for the city behind it."

When Joshua did as God commanded, the people were successful. No Israelite lives were lost, the city was brought to desolation, and there was great bounty added to the camp of the Israelites. The story from Joshua gives us four key principles that we can use to test whether we should keep praying or start acting:

First, there is a time to wait before God in prayer and a time to act. The time to wait is

when we do not have a clear understanding, direction, or mandate from God to act. Until we know what to do regarding a specific circumstance, need, problem, relationship, or opportunity, we should remain in prayer. The time to act is when the Lord reveals to us anything that needs to be corrected or changed in our lives.

Second, blaming God in prayer is a waste of time. Anytime you are holding God responsible for your troubles, you are in error. God does not do bad things to people. He does good things. He does allow things to happen so that you and I can learn from them. He has a plan for good to come from it as you yield your life to Him and trust Him to use the circumstance for a much greater and higher blessing.

Third, when God shows you an error that needs to be corrected, correct it immediately. You may need to ask the Lord how and when you should take specific actions, especially if someone else is involved. Certainly we can pray as we take the steps that God has ordered. Our prayers don't cease, but our period of waiting on the Lord should end at the moment God reveals to us what we are to do. No excuses and no delays.

Fourth, don't substitute prayer for action. Do not compound your error by thinking that you can pray the problem away. If God has revealed to you an error that involves your job, your marriage, your children, your church relationships, your friendships, your health or your finances, remember these problems will not be resolved fully. Most problems are not created in a day or resolved in a day. Our prayer as we deal with the situation is to be constant, "Lord, give me

courage to do this, give me wisdom to know how to do this, give me strength to persist in doing this." This kind of prayer complements our actions; it is not a substitute for action. When we act on the problems that the Lord reveals to us in prayer, we take one step closer to realizing the full potential that the Lord reveals to us in prayer, we take one step closer to realizing the full blessing He has for us. We see with renewed insight the glory that belongs to God alone. He is the One who is refining us and perfecting us, teaching us and training us to be His people. How awesome to know that we can come to God in prayer and always be welcomed. If we fail to deal with a problem after God reveals it to us, we are cheating ourselves of the help we need: God's word. If you want a good example of this, then read Joshua 7:1-13.

Enjoy the Journey,
Pastor Clayton

Sermon Topics and Service Outlines July 2006

JULY 1

AM Service: Shaun Floyd will be preaching in the Morning Service.

A Luncheon will follow the service in celebration of his Pastoral degree from Mid-America Christian University

PM Service: Pastor Clayton

JULY 8

"Summer Series" Extreme Make Over!

**AM Service: The Big "D" Word Depression
1 Kings 19:34 Pastor Clayton**

**PM Service: Fresh Service led by
Pastor Brian**

JULY 15

**AM Service: "Why be Normal?"
1 Chronicles 4:9-10 Pastor Clayton**

PM Service: Denise Droege will be sharing about her missions trip, plans, goals, and dreams for her life.

JULY 22

**AM Service: "If I could just get a little
peace and quiet!"
Hebrews 11:24-27 Pastor Clayton**

**PM Service: Bible Trivia led by
Pastor Brian**

JULY 29

**AM Service: "My name is _____ and I
have a problem!"
2 Chronicles 20 Pastor Clayton**

PM Service: Family Fun Night

Coffee House Bible Study

Starting on Wednesday, July 11 at 7:00pm we will have our Coffee House Small Group Study again this year. Our study book will be Faith, Our Experience in Action written by Lillie McCutcheon. This will be an eight week course that will end August 29th. We will cover topics such as: What is Faith? Is Doubting Wrong? Steps to Building Faith,

and Faith Alive. There will be a time of fellowship before each session. You don't want to miss this special time of study!

Moments to Remember

In happy moments, PRAISE GOD.

In difficult moments, SEEK GOD.

In quiet moments, WORSHIP GOD.

In painful moments, TRUST GOD.

Every moment, THANK GOD.

Board of Christian Education

Summertime is here and many in our church family will be taking time out for vacations, family reunions, camp meetings, relaxing, visiting friends, or maybe just getting away. But whatever you are doing, we will be praying for a safe and refreshing time for you. We truly appreciate all those who serve, teach, and minister in all the different areas of our church.

At our last meeting, we decided on a Mission Statement for the Board of CE. "The Mission of the Board of Christian Education is to create stronger individual spiritual growth through Bible based studies." We will encourage this through our Sunday School classes, Sunday and Wednesday night studies, Bible studies, small group studies, and in our children and youth programs just to name a few. We just had a great time in Vacation Bible School full of fun and learning about Jewish customs in Jesus' time and how Jesus teaches us, heals us, protects us, provides for us, and mostly how he loves and chooses us.

We are into our last quarter of our Sunday School classes, and I have been hearing about some of the good studies that have been taking place. We have a great teaching staff - Thank you! We had 28 with Perfect Attendance (March-May). We want to thank Jane Knowles for her many years of teaching Sunday School, we have been blessed with her teaching and loving our children. We want to welcome Jennifer Willeford to our teaching staff; she is teaching the King's Kids Class. In appreciation of our teachers we will be having an all Church Picnic here after the morning service September 2nd so mark your calendars for a time of food, games, fun, and fellowship!

Jayn Willeford
S.S. Superintendent

Faith Weaver Friends

Thank you for the very nice flower basket. Being part of Faith Weaver Friends is just a blessing. I really enjoy working with the children. The board has asked me to do it again next year and if you pray about it and would like to help, please let me know. We start back on August 29th, 2007. Thank you again for your prayers and support.

Carmen Hamilton
FWF director

Galilee by the Sea

Our trip back in time was very cool. God is Good!! God brought this program great leaders. We had 23-27 children each night; each tribe had 6-10 people.

They danced, sang, laughed. They achieved knowledge and friendship with Jesus Christ, through lessons, activities and dramas.

BIG thanks to all who helped. Our men's groups really made it all come alive and

made it look like a real town. We had a lot of great people step up and show these kids that Christian can have fun too. I praise God for all the blessings of the week, from a small child sticking it out, to a big hug from some great new friends. The video is on sale for \$3.00, see me if you'd like a copy. God always continues to amaze me. Please continue to remember all the children in prayer.

Thank you all for your help!!!

Carmen Hamilton
VBS coordinator

THANK YOU!

I want to share my deep appreciation to my church family who so graciously honored me with the FIVE Star Award in the month of May. At the end of that day's Sunday School hour, several of my students hinted that I would be 'happy' that day. My response was that I always try to show a 'happy smile'. In fact there is a quote by Dr. James Dobson on our classroom wall stating "Each day I wake up, I simply try to put a smile on the face of God." To me, that says it all.

The Red Ryder Wagon filled with books was so adorable. I have sat surrounded by your gifts, enjoying the card messages, reading the 'homemade' books of my students, treasuring the bookmarks made by the Faith Weaver boys and girls, and sorting through the many books given to me. You have added many new selections to my home library and to our church library.

Thanks from a Book Lover!
Phyllis Field

New Address

Mary West sent this update. Jason has moved a few blocks from his former apartment. (His job is the same.)

JASON WEST

Check At The Church For Address

THIS IS A BEAUTIFUL USE OF THE ALPHABET

Although things are not perfect; **B**ecause of trials or pain; **C**ontinue in thanksgiving; **D**o not begin to blame; **E**ven when the times are hard; **F**ierce winds are bound to blow; **G**od is forever able; **H**old on to what you know; **I** imagine life without His love; **J**oy would cease to be; **K**eep thanking Him for all the things; **L**ove imparts to thee; **M**ove out of "Camp Complaining"; **N**o weapon that is known; **O**n earth can yield the power; **P**raise can do alone; **Q**uit looking at the future; **R**edeem the time at hand; **S**tart every day with worship; **T**o "thank" is a command; **U**ntil we see Him coming; **V**ictorious in the sky; **W**e'll run the race with gratitude; **X**alting God most high; **Y**es, there'll be good times & yes, some will be bad, but... **Z**ion waits in glory...where no one is ever sad!