

## A CALL TO INACTION

Colossians 4:2-6

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At the end of his letter to the church at Colossi Paul emphasizes the importance of prayer. If we were asked if prayer was important most would say, yes. Yet we all struggle with praying consistently.

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### 1. BE DEVOTED

The Greek word for devote - *“to give constant attention to a thing, to give unremitting care to a thing, to persevere, to wait continually upon, to be in constant readiness for.”*

The Greek word translated *devote*, is used in relationship to prayer six times in the New Testament.

*Acts 1:14 (NLT)*

*Acts 2:42 (NLT)*

*Acts 6:4 (NLT)*

*Romans 12:12 (NLT)*

*Ephesians 6:18 (NLT)*

We believe that prayer is important, but the early church believed that it was \_\_\_\_\_.

Genuine prayer calls us to \_\_\_\_\_ our wills to God.

Praying together with this kind of humility creates \_\_\_\_\_.

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The second factor in prayer is spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.  
*Matthew 26:41, 1 Peter 5:6-8*

Time with God tends to \_\_\_\_\_ our thoughts and attitudes.

Humbling ourselves before God prepares us for \_\_\_\_\_ God's guidance. *James 1:2-5*

### 3. BE GRATEFUL

The antidote to a negative perspective is \_\_\_\_\_.  
*Ephesians 5:20, Philippians 4:6, Colossians 3:15, 1 Thessalonians 5:18.*

Giving thanks to God reminds us of his goodness and faithfulness and helps us to \_\_\_\_\_ him in challenging circumstances.

### 4. BE INVOLVED

Last Paul urges his readers to become \_\_\_\_\_ in his ministry through prayer.

Matthew 6:10 – Kingdom praying.

Prayer prepares us to be involved in \_\_\_\_\_ God's kingdom on earth.

ANSWERS: essential, surrender, unity, thanksgiving, trust, involved, representing.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How would explain the difference between something being important and something being essential?
2. Why do you think that the church in our culture tends to think of prayer as important but not essential?
3. Why should prayer cause us to surrender our will to God?
4. Why does genuine prayer contribute to unity?
5. How does prayer contribute to our spiritual alertness?
6. Why are prayers of thanksgiving important to our emotional wellbeing?
7. What does Paul urge these believers to pray for? (Vs. 4)
8. How can we pray to advance God's work in the world?

*Welcome*

*to*

*Hillcrest Church*

*Love, Acceptance & Forgiveness*

*And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.*

*Ephesians 6:18*

*October 15, 2023*

*Pastor Bruce Guckelberg, PhD*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **TODAY**

Pastor Tim Brooks will be bring an inspiring message on prayer.

### **ONLINE GATHERINGS**

The Prayer Meeting: Tuesday at 7pm with Pastor Tim Brooks

The Bible study: Wednesday at 6:30 – 7:45pm with Pastor Bruce. Go to the online meeting room on our website ([hillcrestRoseville.com](http://hillcrestRoseville.com)) to access either gathering. If you have a need for prayer don't hesitate to call Pastor Tim Brooks at (916) 872-5207 or email: [timnealbr@gmail.com](mailto:timnealbr@gmail.com)

### **PASTOR BRUCE ON VACATION**

Bruce will be gone today & next Sunday. He and Carol are celebrating their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### **HALLOWEEN OUTREACH – TUESDAY OCTOBER 31**

We need people to donate candy for our Trunk n' Treat; we can use all the candy we can get. We also need volunteers to help on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

Our offering box is in the back of the sanctuary. You can place your tithes and offerings there, or you can visit our website and give online ([hillcrestroseville.com](http://hillcrestroseville.com)). Consider giving to the building fund so we can continue to upgrade our facility.

In order to replace the roof and do our electrical upgrades we had to borrow some money. Our debt is \$19,896, which we would like to eliminate ASAP. Would you prayerfully consider giving a little extra to pay off the loan so we can be debt free and avoid paying interest.

### **BAPTISM**

If you would like to be baptized see pastor Bruce

### **MEMBERSHIP CLASS**

If you are interested in becoming a member of Hillcrest Church please indicate your interest by signing up and we will set a date for the class.

## **PASTOR'S APPRECIATION MONTH**

Each year, the Christian and Missionary Alliance sets aside the month of October as Pastor Appreciation Month. After a few years' hiatus, the Elders have decided to bring back this tradition in October 2023. Hillcrest is blessed to have a marvelous, energetic, high-performing pastor and we can acknowledge him through a special gift at this time of year, as is part of the custom of Appreciation Month. We will also celebrate with a reception immediately after the worship service on Sunday October 29. Thank you cards will be available at the back of the church for the congregation to write notes of appreciation, and we will present them, along with any cash/check gifts, at the October 29 reception. For those of you who use the E-gift option as your tithing/offering method, Treasurer Don Koenes is creating a special e-gift category for pastor appreciation.