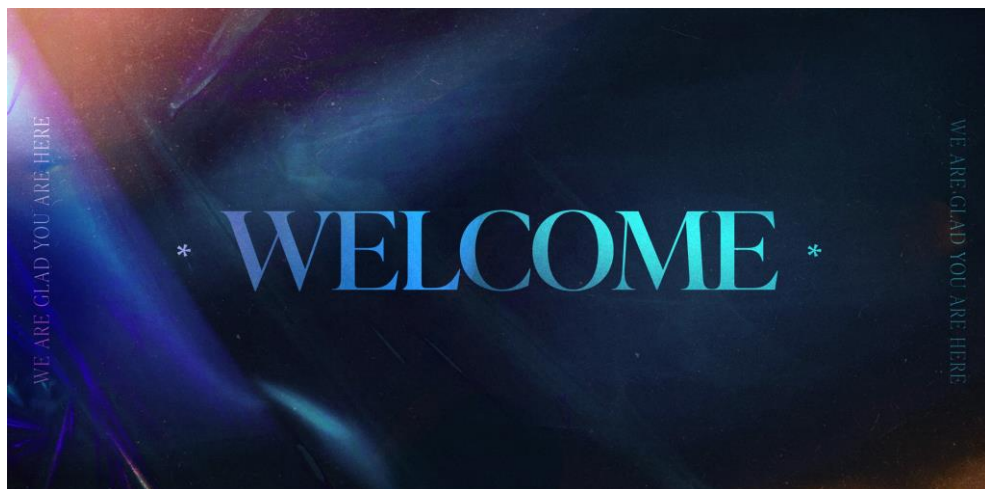


Discovery Service Order and Message Outline



WELCOME TO CEC..... Pastor Phill
SINGING TOGETHER Open up the heavens
PRAYER
SINGING TOGETHER And can it be
UPDATES Pastor Phill
SINGING TOGETHER Battle belongs
BIBLE READING Luke 1:5-25 (Church Bible page 1077)
MESSAGE Taught by Pastor Phill
COMMUNION Blessed be your name
You chose the cross (Lost in wonder)
Come behold the wondrous mystery



The Power of Prayer ~3 How God answers our prayers. Luke 1:5-25

1. We must be willing to let God answer in His own _____.

'Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well on in years."' Luke 1:18 NIV

'The angel said to him, "Do not be afraid Zechariah, your prayer has been heard."' Luke 1:13 NIV

Keep on praying until one of three things happen:

1. You get the _____.

2. You get the _____ that you're going to get it.

'When you pray and ask for something, believe that you have received it, and you will be given whatever you ask for.' Mark 11:24 TEV

3. You keep praying until God _____ to you that it's not His will.

2. We must be willing to let God answer in His own _____.

'My ways are not your ways.' Isaiah 55:8 GW

'Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.' Ephesians 3:20 NIV

3. We must be willing to let God answer in His own _____.

'I am an old man and my wife is well on in years.' Luke 1:18 NIV

Examples:

Sarah and Abraham. Genesis 16&17

Mary and Martha. John 11:1-43

Jairus. Mark 5:21-43

4. We must be willing to let God answer for His own _____.

'To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints. I remember you in my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to you. I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong— that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith. I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I planned many times to come to you (but have been prevented from doing so until now) in order that I might have a harvest among you, just as I have had among the other Gentiles. That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are at Rome.' Romans 1:7, 10-15 NIV

'It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation. I plan to do so when I go to Spain. I hope to visit you while passing through and to have you assist me on my journey there, after I have enjoyed your company for a while. Also pray that by the will of God I may come to you with joy and be refreshed when I am with you.' Romans 15:20, 24, 32 NIV

'When we got to Rome, Paul was allowed to live by himself with a soldier to guard him.' Acts 28:16 NIV

When you pray and the request is not right, God says, "_____."

When you pray and you're not right, God says, "_____."

When you pray and the timing is not right, God says, "_____."

When everything's in place, God says, "_____."



SMALL GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION

1. Review and rate yourself about prayer as we have looked at some of the mechanics of prayer. Is prayer better for you, just as hard, slightly easier? Where would you rate yourself on a scale of 1-10 (1 low, 10 high) in your understanding of prayer and how God answers? Talk about your answers together.
2. Turn to Luke 1:5-25 and read the passage through. What strikes you about this story? Can you relate to Zechariah? Why or why not?
3. Why does God sometimes delay answers to our prayers?
4. 'God is more interested in making you mature than He is about making life easy.' Do you agree or disagree with that statement? Explain why.
5. Read Isaiah 55:8. How are God's ways always better when He answers?
6. Sometimes when we pray, and if we are in tune with God, our prayers begin to change and the requests changes from what we started with. Can you give a personal example of that happening to you?
7. Look up one of these examples. Sarah and Abraham. Genesis 16&17, Mary and Martha. John 11:1-43, Jairus. Mark 5:21-43. What does it teach you about trusting God?
8. God answers prayer for our growth, and for His glory. We see this with Paul. Paul's desire was that he might make an impact for Christ on the world and thought by going to Rome that would happen. How did God answer differently from what Paul expected? See Romans 1 and Acts 28:16. What was the result of Paul trusting God and His plan?

Watch us on



Watch and listen to the message again, or an archived message by going to www.youtube.com/cowplainchurch.