

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

# Cross Creek Weekly Update

January 1, 2011



**Dear Family,**

*"We are the objects of God's immense, irresistible, and incomprehensible love. How tragic it is for a Christian to know God's love and not really know the love of God." - Objects of His Affection by Scotty Smith.* We know the love of God through Jesus' death and resurrection for our salvation. One of the great benefits of our salvation is prayer; and one of the great benefits of prayer is to grow in our love of God and, thereby, really understand the love of our Father.



Prayer is vital to the Christian life. But the Fall (Genesis 3) has marred our ability to pray as we should. We want to pray to the Father - but it seems we have more misses than hits. We are confused about what makes a good prayer. When we start we know we should focus on God, but that works for a few moments and then we focus on our prayer list. Prayer lists can certainly be helpful, but sometimes we start to read it like we would a script and it loses its meaning. Our lists get long, we forget who we have prayed for, and then we lose the list. Prayer exposes our deficiencies and our weaknesses. We feel guilty and instead of wanting to pray more, we pray less.

Jesus shows us a better way to look at prayer - it is about our relationship with our "Abba Father." Our prayers should be real - words from the heart offered in love to our Father in Heaven.

*<sup>35</sup>And He went a little beyond them, and fell to the ground and began to pray that if it were possible, the hour might pass Him by. <sup>36</sup>And He was saying, "Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will." - Mark 14:35-36*

*<sup>6</sup>Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"*

*<sup>7</sup>Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God." - Galatians 4:6-7*

We pray to our "Daddy" our "Abba" and He hears our prayers because of Christ. God is most delighted and pleased when we pray to Him. We know that in order to develop a deep and intimate relationship with another person, we need to develop deep and intimate communications with that person. Prayer is the means for us to develop our relationship with God.

Why am I teaching about prayer today? As we enter 2012 I believe we must be a church that is powered by prayer. We can develop ministry teams, hold leadership meetings, make strategic plans; but if God isn't in it, it will be merely human effort with no divine power in it. Earnest, heartfelt prayer is the means by which we align ourselves with God's will for our church.

What could happen in our church, our families, our personal lives if we commit ourselves to prayer? What might happen if we fully commit to pray for "God's Kingdom come" - to see the Gospel spread throughout NW Saint Johns County and around the world? I think we would be overwhelmed by God's answers. May we grow deeply in love with Christ and may that be seen in our prayer lives.

A reminder: we will celebrate the **Lord's Supper this Sunday**. May this be a rich and beautiful day of worship - the first Sunday of the New Year.

Have a wonderful week and start of the New Year.

In Christ's Service,

**Jan**

## **This Coming Week:**

**Sunday Worship Service, 10:30 AM, Communion & Money Offering**