**A Prayer Workshop - *Morning Edition***

**Discovering and Applying Biblical Prayer Principles from Hebrews 11**

**Session Seven: The Faith of Vision: Praying Contented Discontent**

**Hebrews 11:13-16**

(ESV) ***13These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. 14For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. 15If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.***

In the end we will live our lives loving this world or looking for the next, slaves to our flesh or alive in God’s Spirit, seeking our independence or acknowledging our weakness, pursuing our lusts or following Jesus. Faith enables us to look past the world’s hollow promises and shallow relationships in order to behold the eternal God and His revealed plan to make all things new. Prayer follows and energizes our faith by embracing God’s eternal power and point of view.

**1. We pray with persistence to the very end of our lives.**

 “These all died in faith,” which means that by the time they passed from this earth, they still had not received all that God had promised. We often are discouraged when God does not answer us our way and on our time schedule. But prayer itself is timeless, and fulfilled by God when and how He deems best.

 Scriptures: Genesis 49:28-33; 50:22-26

 Prayer prompts: Father, help us to pray without ceasing.

 Father, help us to never cease praying.

 Father, help us to be faithful to the end of our lives.

 **2. We pray with a “holy discontent.”**

 While contentment is a virtue, being at home in a sinful world is not. Our prayers should reflect that heaven is our home and we long to long for God Himself more than anything He has created.

 Scriptures: Matthew 6:19-21; 1Timothy 6:1-10, 17-19

 Prayer prompts: Father, grant us a hunger for your presence.

 Father, help us discover our greatest joys in You.

 Father, help us love what you love.

**3. We pray, for in Jesus, God has accepted us and has prepared a place for us.**

 The forgiveness of sins sets the stage and table of grace, and reminds us that God has provided the sacrifice of His Son to glorify Himself in saving sinners. He is not ashamed of us, but rather values the image of His Son growing in us.

 Scriptures: Luke 12:32-37; 22:24-30; John 14:1-3

 Prayer prompts: Father, help us not live in servile fear or false guilt.

 Father, help us to live up to our privileges in Christ.

 Father, help us keep our minds focused upon eternity.

Let’s pray. . . A Model Prayer of Vision Psalm 123 (ESV)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  **A Song of Ascents.** 1 To you up my eyes,  O you who are enthroned in the heavens!2 Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master,  as the eyes of a maidservant to the hand of her mistress,   | so our eyes look to the Lord our God,  till he has mercy upon us. 3 Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us,  for we have had more than enough of contempt. 4 Our soul has had more than enough of the scorn of those who are at ease, of the contempt of the proud.Praise the Lord!  |