



November 7 & 8

How > What

John Fuller, Senior Pastor

Introduction

Pastor John invited us to spend the next three weeks learning about *Praying for a Miracle*. More important than *what* we ask of God is *how* we ask. The starting point is a posture of dependence on God where we rely on His power, allow the truth of His Word to fill our minds and permit His Spirit to transform the desires of our hearts. When our hearts delight in the Lord above all else, then *what* we ask for will align with what God wants for us.

Discussion

1. By definition, miracles require God's intervening power. Asking for miracles puts us in a place of dependence, of weakness. Read **2 Corinthians 12:7-10** where the apostle Paul asks for a miracle. How did God answer Paul's prayer? What insight does this passage have for you?
2. In **John 15:1-17**, Jesus points out several times that remaining (abiding) in Him is related to bearing fruit, and apart from Him, we can do nothing. What is this fruit? What is its purpose?
3. Share a time when you've asked God for a miracle for yourself or someone else. If you hesitated in asking God, describe the reason for your struggle. Do you feel God answered your prayer? Whether yes or no, describe how God's answer affected your life or that of others.

Think About It

We live with a do-it-yourself mentality. We tend to be comfortable when we can control what happens in our lives and don't have to depend on others. But, God made us to rely on Him; we are created to be fulfilled only in relationship with Him. Jesus said, "No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine" [**John 15:4b**]. Sometimes God calls us to endure something we feel unable to endure or do something we don't think we can do. Pastor Rick Warren, in one of his "Daily Hope Devotionals," argues that "If God calls you to do something, then you shouldn't be able to do it without him. In fact, if you could do it without him, then it's really not a God-thing. The truth is, God created you with weaknesses. And, since he's God, he couldn't have made a mistake. Is it possible he created you with weaknesses in order to keep you on your knees before him? With you dependent upon him, you're able to do all things through him who strengthens you." [**Philippians 4:13-14**]

Do Something

1. *Rely on His Power*: To prepare your heart and mind for next week's message, reflect on the things God has called you to endure or do that you cannot do on your own. Write them down and share them with your group or someone close to you.
2. *Abide in His Truth*: Abiding happens through regular rhythms of relationship with God - spending time in His Word, allowing His Word to fill our minds and hearts and learning to trust Him to meet our needs. Talk with another believer about what that kind of rhythm looks like in his/her life; then, commit (or re-commit) yourself to a regular time with God.
3. *Ask in His Name*: Spend time in prayer. Praise God for His strength, admitting your weakness. Ask Him to shape the desires of your heart this week

For more information, contact grouplife@prairielakeschurch.org.