

# LIVING OUT THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS.

## DOES PRAYER MATTER?

***Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. (Luke 11:9-10)***

Have you ever prayed for things and it just didn't happen—you were left feeling like you cannot trust in prayer, that God didn't live up to His end of the deal and now you are feeling hopeless?

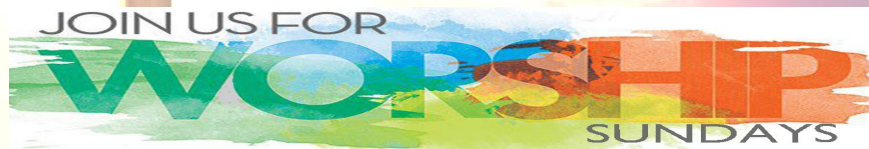
These are what are known as the ***sharp edges of faith*** in an all-powerful, personal God. Many of us will react with anger or withdrawal when we feel God has let us down by not giving us things we felt were legitimate requests; or judge that our expectations of God were too great; or we lack something in ourselves and we compare ourselves with others.

If we allow this disappointment in God to fester and eat away at our faith in Him we may find ourselves bereft of belief. When belief in God becomes difficult we tend to turn away from Him—***but then where do we go?*** We may even give up believing that God's even there.

Prayer is the irrepressible cry of the heart at the times we most need it. Prayer is far more complex than some make it out to be. There is much more involved than merely asking for something and receiving it.

For every person who feels that prayer has not "worked" and that God has abandoned them, there is someone else for whom prayer remains a vital part of their life, sustaining them even when their prayers have gone unanswered because their belief and trust are not only in the power of prayer but in the character and wisdom of God.

***When God is the focus of our prayer, He sustains and preserves our faith.***



### Sunday Services

Aug 4th Preacher Judi.

Readings: Hosea 11:1-11 Di

Helpers— Noel and Di

Colossians 3:1-11 Noel

Communion Judi

Aug 11 Preacher Judi

Readings: Isaiah 1:1 & 10-20 Marg Hebrews 11:1-3 & 8-18 Bob

Helpers— Marg and Bob

Communion: Noel



**ALPHA** Pastor Judi was in hospital so Monday's session had to be cancelled, so we are working a few weeks behind at the moment. Tomorrow night our question is: **How can I have faith?"** We will also discuss whether we just continue Monday evenings or implement our sessions on the Holy Spirit as planned for the weekend of the 10th.

**Prison Network** today is the last Sunday to donate to the Prison Network. Please see Judi even if you can spare just 50c. Judi will arrange for the funds to be deposited on Monday.

**We shared a pleasant Community farewell Lunch 28 July for Fiona.** Please continue to pray for her next step serving God. Fiona may pop in from time to time of a Sunday only.

**Homelessness in August** Judi is working with the local MP Tim Richardson, his staff, local schools and businesses to raise funds and items for our Pantry. We encourage you to come along for some fun on the weekends of 17/18th August and 24/25th August from 1-3pm as we create our own masterpiece on calico in the hall with something relevant for homelessness week. All are welcome to contribute. The local newspapers will help to promote the finished product. .

**Gambling support** we are partnering with Kingston Council to run a fun but illuminating 2 hour session during breakfast on the 9th October (8-10am) as a means of assisting anyone who is struggling with gambling addictions. Presenters are those who had problems and now wish to share how their lives have turned around for the better.

**Fund Raising is not an easy task—but God continues to bless us with the following:-**

- ◇ Kingston Annual Grant of \$10,000 for our breakfast.
- ◇ The Cove Hotel funds to purchase a new hot plate and remodel the table to install pull out drawers for more storage space.
- ◇ Community Care \$1000 for Pantry
- ◇ Bendigo Bank \$2200 for Pantry from Judi's 3 minute talk

## **PRAYER ROOM/LOUNGE**

### **PRAYER MEETING**

Friday's at 10am for 1/2 hour. All are welcome.

### **LADIES BIBLE STUDY:**

Friday's 10:30 - 1130am. For the next few weeks we will be exploring "**how to hear God's Word in life.**"



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### **The Pastor Is In:**

Pastor Judi provides pastoral care to all who attend the church and overall site throughout the week. She is able to meet on or off site, depending on your preferences. Best contact 0423 375 714. Please note Judi does not work Tuesdays/Thursdays or Saturdays. However will return your call if it is an emergency.