

# Humble Hearts: Open and Ready-For God's Work of Grace

Pastor Guy Gray

God works in and through humble hearts. A humble heart has lots of "room" for God, because it is empty of pride and self sufficiency. As we move forward in our faith and our ministry for Christ, there is nothing more important than humbling ourselves before God. Prayer is the way forward. Prayer is the way we bring our hearts to God and clear out the clutter of pride and self. Let's take time each day this week to reflect on God's Word and humble our hearts before God in prayer. Let's do this with great longing and expectancy with the hope that we might experience a tremendous work of God's grace in and through our lives.

## Verses for reflection and prayer this week:

### Monday

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." (Luke 18:9-14)

### Tuesday

"For this is what the high and lofty One says—  
He who lives forever, whose name is holy:  
"I live in a high and holy place,  
But also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit,  
To revive the spirit of the lowly  
And to revive the heart of the contrite." (Isaiah 57:15)

### Wednesday

This is what the LORD says: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house you will build for me? Where will my resting place be? Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being?" declares the LORD. "This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word." (Isaiah 66:1-2)

### Thursday

"O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise." (Isaiah 57:16-17)

### Friday

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.  
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth." (Matthew 5:3-5)

### Saturday

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.”  
(1 Peter 5:6-11)

## **RW Happenings**

### **Sign ups Today ●●●**

#### **River West Photo Directory ●**

Get your photo in the new River West Directory—our goal is for 100% participation! Photos will be taken at the Community Center on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>. You must make an appointment...signups are going on today after each service!

#### **Financial Peace University ●**

Two classes will be offered starting in September...

Mondays starting September 15<sup>th</sup> & Thursdays starting September 18<sup>th</sup>. Contact Julie Messenger at 699-2226 or julie@riverwest.org

#### **El Salvador 2009 ●**

Signups for the Spring 2009 El Salvador mission trip to Nuevo Renacer are now open. Trip dates are March 20<sup>th</sup>—28<sup>th</sup> 2009. Applications are available in the foyer. There will be an information meeting on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 7pm at the Community Center. Contact Pastor Chris at 699.2226 or chris@riverwest.org

#### **Wednesday, September 3rd ● Student Ministries Prayer**

##### **River West Church @ 7-8pm**

Join other parents of Jr. High or High School students on the first Wednesday of each month to pray for our students. For more information contact Cynthia Weston @ 515-1464 or cwweston@juno.com

#### **Girl Talk ●**

##### **Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> Fellowship Hall @ 10-11:30am**

We invite **all** women to come & discover ways to get connected...to friends...to church...and to the world! Come & join us for a light lunch & fellowship. Childcare available on a need basis only with pre-registration. Contact Robin Knox at 888.2344 or robinknox@comcast.net for more information.

#### **Don't miss next Sunday! September 7th**

French Toast & Sausage Sunday-Community Group & Bible Study Sign-ups