

3/11/2018 – Calling Down Heaven: Praying from Need

GROW GROUP HOMEWORK

Welcome to Spring 2018 sermon-based Grow Groups! To prepare for your time together, fully answer the questions below and be prepared to share your answers with the group. Have a great meeting!

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Where is the most relaxing place you've ever been?

2. What could you give a 40 minute presentation on without any preparation?

3. What was impactful to you from this weekend's message?

INTO THE BIBLE

Pastor Jim shared about Joshua being in great need in the middle of a battle. Great needs always come through affliction. God wants to use our affliction to draw us into a closer, more intimate walk with Him. But we get to choose whether to follow God through the affliction.

1. Read Psalm 42:1-2.
 - A) Why do you think David compared a deer panting for water to how his soul should be?

 - B) What does it mean to "thirst" for God

2. Read Psalm 42:3.
 - A) What kind of emotional state did David find himself?

B) What kind of people do you think these are in David's life that are asking, "where is your God?"?

3. Read Psalm 42:4.

A) As David was in his pity party, what did David remember that he used to do?

B) Why do you think it is important to remember the high points in your spiritual walk with God?

4. Read Psalm 42:5.

A) David again shares his emotional state. But in his affliction, where did he see his relief?

B) What does true hope lead to?

God wants to use the afflictions in our lives to draw us even closer. The hope we have in who He is will always lead us to praise Him for whatever happens in our lives. Let's look at a real-life example in the life of the Apostle Paul.

5. Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10.

A) Why did Paul say God gave him this thorn the flesh?

B) Why did God say He would not take the thorn away?

C) What is the benefit from Paul's thorn in the flesh that is greater than the afflictions he experienced?

6. Read Luke 11:9-10. The verbs ask, seek, and knock (in the original language) means to keep on asking, keep on seeking, and keep on knocking. Why do you think God desires this persistence when we're in the middle of afflictions?

7. Read Luke 11:11-13. As we cry out to God in our afflictions, what do these verses say about the character of our Father and how He will provide for our needs?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Seeing how God uses affliction to grow us in our dependence on Him, how could happiness be the enemy of intimacy with God in your personal life and the life of Central Baptist Church?

2. Do you believe that God's higher priority in your life is creating happiness for you or creating intimacy with Him? Explain.

3. Afflictions come to remind us of our desperation for God. Remember a time or situation where an affliction or "thorn in your flesh" drove you closer to relying totally on God?