

Good morning.....Let us Pray....

Dear Heavenly Father, we're here today to talk about you, think about you, learn about you, listen to you and praise you. We're here to worship you, talk to you, raise you up, sing with you, and to come alive with you.So Lord, thank you for providing me with this opportunity to share with my friends some of my thoughts and feelings about you. I ask you to give me the strength to speak with confidence. To share my love for you with your loving followers and my church family and friends. It's time for all of us to let go and let God. Amen

Preparation... it can be a wonderful thing....if you actually bear down and do it. I had some difficulty determining whether I could be serious and down to business.... Or should message be a lighthearted one. Most of you know that I am unable to be serious or more than 30 seconds or so. So I decided that I would try to compromise. How about a combination of seriousness and lightheadedness.....

.....,We come to this beautiful building to do those things I have just mentioned in my opening prayer.

But, some of us, and that might include me (still not sure maybe), may not yet be totally ready to let him be a part of our lives. In my case I guess that sometimes I wonder where I personally stand with Jesus.

When I'm here in the sanctuary with you, and the light of Christ comes down the aisle and his candles begin to illuminate the altar, I'm ready to go, and worship him and let him into my heart and into my mind.

Worshipping him is a good feeling. That's when I realize that hey, this is the real thing.... we're involved with God now and he's here with us.

Then, later, we go home or to wherever our schedules demand. And, the hubbub of the day and the week, the daily rush of activity, the decision making etc. by the way, I've always wondered how many actual decisions we make in a 24 hour period. Maybe that's something we should mull over at a different time. So anyway... it's like we stop thinking about God, even sometimes right after we leave worship. I'm guilty of that and maybe some of you might be as well I confess that I'm not always aware that he is always with us. I should be..... Somehow we forget about him and that he is always at our side.

Once in a while tho, especially when we are alone, we ask him to help us physically and mentally to make sure that we're on top of things.

He is in our life, we know that. He's in all of our lives. So, I feel as though I need to Let Go & Let God. I invite those of you that may be struggling like me consider this as well. So this might be the point in my message that I might say "Let's close with a prayer". We know that our pastor wouldn't say that. Unfortunately I have more to say today.

A few months ago, my son Andy and his wife Christine sent me a small wooden plaque. Andy is becoming quite an accomplished woodworker and Christine has a special talent of doing hand lettering on wood.

There's probably a name for it. Anyway, I was very touched when I received it....not only for the quality of workit's absolutely perfect.... and it will always have a place in my home.... but more for what it says...Let Go & Let God. It had sermon title written all over it. I told myself at the time that if I would ever have the good fortune of speaking to my church family again that I would try to do something with it.

So. Please raise your hand if you have no problems in life. Your bills are always paid on time. You make so much money you don't know what to do with it. Or, maybe You pretty much really get uptight in most every packer game.... Or you are very concerned about an ailing loved one or maybe you yourself are dealing with health issues. Then we need to Let Go & Let God.... 1Peter 5:7 says "Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you". That's a pretty special comment about him. The author truly knew what he was talking about. God is very powerful. But in a super loving way. He cares for us to the end of all things. We all need to follow him forever. He has a love for us that is incredibly enormous and it will never subside.

There are some here listening to me now and those out on the web that know their way around the Bible. I am not one of those. My excuse has been that I am not a good reader. That's pretty weak, I know. Actually it is not even true. Our scripture for today is about walking on water, which at first glance would be an impossible feat or a miracle. The latter term, as I see it, is appropriate. Hopefully you all know that I am not a professional speaker or actually a speaker at all. I really and truly don't know what I am doing here. There's several very neat people in our group of churches that know what they are doing.... That's not me. I thought it was tough sometimes just to sing, standing up here is very scary. Sometimes a good challenge is a wonderful thing. I think or maybe I know that Jesus sometimes asks us to step out on a proverbial limb, chase after our dreams, or maybe even jump out of an airplane. That's when we know that we truly have faith. Faith that someone is always with us and will keep us safe. Faith in the things we do. And faith in a higher being.

But I did have the pleasure a couple of years ago of attending a small group class at Joyce Reed's home and led by Tom Rossmiller. It was an excellent small group study. And since then I have a new desire to learn more about the stories of Jesus and his life. I highly recommend, that if you haven't done so already, that you join a class or two that will be coming up soon.

Tom's was very interesting since we discussed stepping out of the boat and to challenge ourselves while God is at our side. I remember clearly reviewing Jesus's command to Peter to step out of the boat and come to him. Peter did manage to take a couple of steps, staying upright for a short while, but began to slowly sink when he became distracted by high winds and very rough seas. He reached out his hand asking for Jesus to save him and Jesus did. When we are here or sometimes in a quiet place, we have Jesus on our mind. But we, like Peter, can become distracted. We don't always follow in his footsteps but wish we could. This is the point.

How can we overcome distraction. We need to let our hearts go and get good with God. There have been several times for me lately when maybe I'm lifting something I might ask God for a little help. I might say something like Help Me Lord. I would most likely say it out

loud. "Help Me Lord". I know for sure that lately when I am walking up my basement steps I say out loud "Help Me Lord". I look at these as small prayers ... away from church. I am talking to God asking for help. I remember then that he is always with me.

Ok raise your hands..... how many of you sometimes pray at night or anytime.... And when you pray, you pray out loud? That's good. I thought so. Let's try it now.....

Dear Lord Jesus, we're so happy that you are always with us and by our side. Many times you are giving us a helping hand and we don't even realize it.

Lord, lift us up just as you raised Peter who had faith in you. If you have the time, and I know that you do, help us get it all figured out, even through our many distractions. Some of us are just finding out about you.... This is a good thing. Help those that know you to not take you for granted. Let us now go on thru our busy days opening our eyes to you more and more each day. And be prepared for us to let go and let God.

Amen....

As I have said many times already this morning Jesus is here with us. Always here with us, even if we don't know him that we'll or even know him at all.

And if he spoke to us this morning he would say "HE LOVES US AND WILL NEVER DESERT US" yes he is saying that. Listen carefully.....

JESUS: I love you and will never desert you!

Brad: Jesus is that you?

JESUS: Yes it's me. I thought I would help you make your point. I am not sure that you have been convincing enough.

Brad: you mean everything didn't get thru to everyone?

JESUS: Unfortunately no.... 3 or so we're distracted and a couple were actually sleeping. One was daydreaming.

Brad: you are very observant Lord. By the way. What are we supposed to call you. You have so many names in the Bible.

JESUS: You must be reading your bible at least a little bit. You need to work on your bible skills a bunch. For the moment you may call me Jesus.

Brad: thank you Jesus

JESUS: So back to the point you are trying to make.... Let's remind them that I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS EVEN UNTIL THE END OF THE EARTH...

Brad: wow. That's very powerful. Can I ask you a favor?

JESUS? Sure, what is it Brad

Brad: Could you please say out loud that wonderful prayer that you taught us so long ago?

JESUS: Yes Brad, but only if everyone joins me. And that everyone listens closely to what it says.

Brad: Thank you Jesus. Should we rise as we are able?

JESUS: Yes Brad..... OUR FATHER, WHO ART IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BETHY NAME. THY KINGDOM COME, THYWILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN. GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD AND FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US, AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUTDELIVER US FROM EVIL. FOR THINE ISTHE KINGDOM AND THE POWER, ANDTHE GLORY FOREVER, AMEN