

For the Glory of God Alone

Pastor Paul Springer | October 29, 2017

Psalm 86:8–13

Personal Connection (25 minutes)

Icebreaker

It is safe to say, most everyone — believers and nonbelievers — have experienced a time in their lives when they have felt a sense of awe. For you, maybe it was tied to a place you visited, a miracle you witnessed, the budding of a relationship, or a time you just couldn't explain.

Q. Share with the group your moment of awe.

Ups and Downs

Q. How did it go last week? Share with the group some of your highs and lows, and offer praise to God for the doors that he has opened.

Praying for each other

Reflect on the questions above and share with the group. Take some time now and appoint someone in the group to pray for spiritual strength and guidance to grow in areas of vulnerability.

Sharing Christ

Q. Were you able to share Christ with anyone this week?

Review Last Sunday's *What Now?*

Last week we discussed the fact that we all have expectations for ourselves and for others. We often are not able to meet the expectations and standards we set for ourselves. The truth is, they cannot be met in our own power. We are human, and sin exists within our flesh, resulting in letting ourselves and others down.

Q. Have you gained a new perspective about your expectations for yourself and others? Share your thoughts with the group.

Digging Deeper (30 minutes)

This Week's Key Concept:

All glory, honor, and praise belongs to the Lord, my God!

Read Psalm 86:8–13

In verse 8, David describes how no pagan god compares to our Lord. It was common in David's time for the people to worship pagan gods just as it is common today for people to elevate things to the point of worshipping them as false idols. All man-made deities are powerless because they are merely inventions of the mind, not living beings. As believers today, we are less likely to worship pagan gods than to put our trust in our idols of choice.

Q. Is there something (even if it is good) in your life that is at risk of becoming an idol for you?

Note: There is a fine line between enjoying the good things God has blessed you with and elevating those gifts to the status of an idol. One safeguard is to give praise and honor to the giver of all good gifts.

Verse 10 declares, "For you are great and perform wonderful deeds. You alone are God."

Q. Has the Lord ever provided you with an unexpected joy or experience you did not request? Over time, were you able to see how this gift positively impacted your life in ways you never expected?

Matthew 5:8 says, "God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God."

Q. What does it mean to be pure of heart?

Verse 11 asks, "Teach me your ways, O Lord, that I may live according to your truth! Grant me purity of heart, so that I may honor you."

Q. How is the clarity of God's will in your life, when you seek him with a pure heart and follow in obedience? In other words, when you seek and follow the Lord earnestly, is his direction for your life clear? Do you feel peace, even if his direction isn't clear?

It is important to recognize this: No matter where you are on your spiritual journey (from beginning believer to seasoned believer), what the Lord reveals in your walk with him is profound!

Q. What do you think it means to be taught God's ways? *See Proverbs 4:4–27.*

Our walk with Christ is much like what Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 13:11–13

¹¹When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things. ¹²Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God knows me completely. ¹³Three things will last forever — faith, hope, and love — and the greatest of these is love.

Love is an action just as Christ's death and sacrifice on the cross is an action.

Impact Questions

Q. Perhaps you feel that you can't discern where your life is going at the moment, that you lack answers, or that you have personal reservations about openly praising God. Is it possible to identify something for which you can give God the glory he deserves, even now?

God's love for you is so great that he gave his one and only son! In following God's ways, love is supreme. He demonstrated it on the cross and demonstrates it in your daily life. He deserves all the glory for such a profound gift of love and sacrifice for you and me!

What now? (15 minutes)

This week, keep mental notes of all the provision the Lord has provided for you. It may be small things, it may be big things, it may even be difficult things. But, give God the glory! He has a beautiful masterplan for your life! Sing songs of worship and praise in your prayers, because of who he is and all that he has done for you. Give him thanks!

Closing Prayer (15 minutes)

Please share your prayer requests and praises, so that your LIFE Group may lift you up, in neighborly affection.

Please pray for expanding Christ's Kingdom through your relationships, in our congregation, to the community, and in distant places.