

## SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE HEART OF PRAYER • NOVEMBER 27, 2022

# THE HEART of PRAYER

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### Foundational Practice: Giving Generously

This month, we focused on our foundational practice of giving generously. We are stewards of God's resources, which includes our time, gifts, and money. Generosity is a posture of the heart—we have been blessed to be a blessing to others! Spend a few minutes having 1-2 people share their responses to the following questions: As you reflect on this past month, how did you experience God's generous heart? What is God currently stirring in your heart regarding generosity—with your time, gifts, or money?

1. This week, Brad talked about the heart of prayer and ongoing transformation in Christ. What caught your attention in the message and why? How were you encouraged and/or challenged?
2. The sanctification gap was described as what God has called us to be and who we actually are. How do you see the sanctification gap show up in your life? In what ways is God continuing to transform you from where you are and who He is calling you to be?

\*This is not meant to shame, but rather to open our hearts to the Lord and to one another as *all* of us experience ongoing transformation in Christ.

“I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope.”

PSALM 56:3-4

3. The sanctification gap is closed through embracing the Gospel and presenting our wills to God as we embrace the Gospel. This is *Spirit-driven*, **not** flesh-driven. Brad described three different heart postures of approaching the sanctification gap: **1) Will-less**, **2) Will-ful**, and **3) Will-ing**. Which direction do you tend to lean towards—will-less or will-ful? How have you seen this show up in your life, and what truth do you need to be reminded in light of this?

### CLOSING CHALLENGE

To be willing is to present ourselves daily to God. The Prayer of Intention is a practice of opening ourselves to Him, which includes four movements: **1) Present myself to God** (Rom. 12:1-2), **2) Die to myself** (Gal. 2:20, 1 Cor. 2:1-5), **3) Personal inventory** (Psalm 139:23-24), and **4) Open to God** (Matthew 11:28-30). Spend a couple minutes this week practicing the Prayer of Intention. Keep it simple and remember that the purpose of this practice is God Himself—not a specific feeling or “result”! *If time allows, you can practice this during your Life Group meeting. Spread out and spend individual time practicing the Prayer of Intention.*