



Welcome to the *Combined Edition* of **Women's Bible Study** A Ministry of Autumn Ridge Church

January 13, 2010
The Heart's Cry for Faith

Today's teaching lecture
from *Mark 9: 17-29* is by
GRETCHEN STEER

Dear Friends,

I think many of us are puzzled about how to maintain a rich prayer life in the midst of all that we are called to do each day. How can a woman really "Pray continually" as we are commanded in 1 Thessalonians 5:17? The different stories from both Old and New Testament that we'll study over the next four months will help us see how prayer is truly applicable to all situations.

But prayer begins with faith, and that's what we'll look at today – an anguished father who cries "I believe – help my unbelief!". I am thankful that God turns our small amount of faith, expressed in prayer, into faith that can move mountains. For, as Jesus replied to that distraught father, "Anything is possible if a person believes." It is prayer that makes the connection between our small seed of faith and God's infinite reservoir of power.

My desire for all of us is that we will learn to turn to prayer as our first resort, not our last, in all situations. Welcome back, and enjoy reconnecting with friends in your small group today. And if you're new today, I pray that Women's Bible Study will become a place of warmth and refuge for you during this cold winter.

Affectionately,

Gretchen Steer

I am very sorry to announce that morning worship leader Karlee Nichols will be stepping down for health reasons for the next few months. She is developing vocal cord problems and has been advised by her doctor to forgo singing for a period of time until her voice heals. Please pray for Karlee during this time; she loves leading worship and singing and we would like to pray along with her that her voice will be fully restored. Various women will lead morning worship in the interim, and we thank Linde Hinkel for leading this morning. Tara Maier will continue to lead worship in our evening session.

If you are ***new to Women's Bible Study today***, please visit us at the registration table so we can place you in a small group (AM) or at a table group (PM).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, January 17, Pools of Refreshing will meet in the Timothy Chapel from 6-8 pm. Helen Knight will lead the multi-church worship team and Cindy Finch will speak on "How to let God walk between you and your problems."

Sweets for the Soul, A Retreat For Women, will take place **February 19-21, 2010**, in Trego, WI. The Guest Speaker is Teresa Rinker of Healing Hearts Ministries and the worship leader is ARC's own Mollie Baker. You can register online at https://autumnridgechurch.ccbchurch.com/app/w_form_response.php?form_id=75. Early bird special ends January 17, 2010.

Devoted Hearts' annual women's conference is April 23-24, 2010, at Autumn Ridge. This year's theme is "The Treasure of Truth" and the keynote speaker is Jan Silvious. Friday evening will feature a special concert by the five-time, GMA Music Award-winning group Selah. Meredith Andrews will lead worship throughout the weekend. Tickets are available at Christos Book Center or for additional information or group registration visit www.devotedheartsrochester.com.

Next week's scripture passage has been changed to Daniel 2:14-23. The topic will remain the same.

Don't forget all of our weekly materials are available online. Announcement/outline page, discussion/study questions, and the printed lecture notes are available at: <http://autumnridgechurch.org/adult/women/womens-bible-study.html>. If you have questions during the week please Contact Michelle Johnson, ARC Women's Ministry and WBS Administrative Assistant at 288-8880 or marthatoo@hotmail.com or e-mail us at wbs@autumnridgechurch.org.

Incllement weather policy reminder: If the Rochester Public Schools are canceled or start late on any Wednesday, WBS AM AND PM are both cancelled for that day. Check the website for updates or contact us at wbs@autumnridgechurch.org if you have any questions.



The Heart's Cry for Faith

Mark 9:17-29

Gretchen Steer

I. Some Big Questions About Prayer

- A. What is prayer?
- B. What happens when we pray?

II. The Heart's Cry for Faith

- A. Jesus calms the crowd
- B. Jesus challenges the man
- C. Jesus controls the demon
- D. Jesus converses about prayer

III. The Heart's Cry for Answers

- A. How did it change the outcome?
- B. How did it change the man?
- C. How does it change us?

Please pray for the An family, who are grieving the loss of Suei-Ching. She died Saturday, January 9, of pancreatic cancer. A service of thanksgiving for her life will be held at Autumn Ridge Church on Friday, January 15 at 11:30. Please keep her husband, Kai Nan, her daughters Ming and Ting, son-in-law Christian and grandson Ryder in your prayers. Suei-Ching's vibrant faith affected many in this community and beyond. We give thanks for her life.

FAITH

*My God, I bless thee
that thou hast given me the eye of faith
to see thee as Father,
to know thee as a covenant God,
to experience thy love planted in me;
For faith is the grace of union
by which I spell out my entitlement to thee;
Faith casts my anchor upwards
where I trust in thee
and engage thee to be my Lord.*

*Be pleased to live and move within me,
breathing in my prayers,
inhabiting my praises,
speaking in my words,
moving in my actions,
living in my life,
causing me to grow in grace.*

*Thy bounteous goodness
has helped me believe,
but my faith is weak and wavering,
its light dim,
its steps tottering,
its increase slow,
its backslidings frequent;
it should scale the heavens
but lies groveling in the dust.
Lord, fan this divine spark
into glowing flame.*

*When faith sleeps
my heart becomes an unclean thing,
the font of every loathsome desire,
the cage of unclean lusts
all fluttering to escape,
the noxious tree of deadly fruit,
the open wayside of earthly tares.*

*Lord, awake faith
to put forth its strength
until all heaven fills my soul
and all impurity is cast out.*

AMEN

(From *The Valley of Vision*, a collection of
Puritan Prayers & Devotions, edited by
Arthur Bennett)

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