



river west church

The Parable of the Weeds and the Wheat

Matthew 13:24-30

Pastor Guy Gray

8.15.2010

Dear River West Family,

On the first Sunday of January we started our year together with this sentence, "In 2010 God is going to do amazing things in and through our lives – if we pray." Then, we stepped out in faith and began our year in prayer. And now, we can see that God IS doing amazing things!

That's why my heart is filled with gratitude and expectation. I know that God is working in our lives. I see Him working in and through our church. I see His guidance and provision. I know from experience that these things are a sign of more to come. How awesome!

So now it's August, and I want to reaffirm the promise, "God is going to do amazing things in and through our lives – if we pray."

I am asking you to continue to pray. Pray earnestly. Pray in faith. If you are new to prayer, I want you to grow in prayer. If prayer is already a regular part of your life, I want you to grow deeper in prayer. You don't need to understand all the mysteries of prayer. Just pray. Let's humble our hearts like trusting children and come to God in simple faith - humble, grateful, trusting and attentive. This is how we come to God in prayer. This is what we have started to do at River West Church. Don't stop now! Keep asking, keep seeking and keep knocking! (Matthew 7:7). Please remember that you have a vital role to play for the impact of God's kingdom in our broken world, and prayer is the place to begin. Actually, prayer is the beginning, the middle and the end! This keeps our hearts in the right place - humble, trusting and expectant. As we pray, God releases His power to do what only He can do and God receives all the glory for the outcome!

Here are a few things you need to pray about over the next few weeks.

Malibu Service Mission: We are sending 50 adults and teens from River West to serve the children of military families at a Young Life camp in Canada. This is a deeply significant ministry that will share the love and Gospel of Christ in word and deed.

Door to Grace: Door to Grace is a ministry dedicated to opening a shelter for victims of sex trafficking in our city. On Wednesday, August 25th there will be an event at Western Seminary to help church leaders respond to this issue.

PDX Medical Outreach: On September 18th a group of River West Doctors and nurses will be participating with many others in a city wide medical outreach in downtown Portland.

Nuevo Renacer: Our prayers have been answered and the well has been approved for the village in El Salvador. Pray for the completion of this project and for effective Gospel ministry through our relationships with the villagers in the months to come.

The move to our new building: We expect the escrow on the new building to close in mid September and to move to our new location in the first couple of weeks of October. Please pray for wisdom and guidance. Most of all pray that God will expand and empower our ministry for the Gospel as we step forward in faith.

The ministry of God's Word: Pray that God will open our hearts so that His word transforms our hearts and minds. In the fall we will begin a study of the Book of Revelation. God wants to speak powerfully into our lives through this study. Start praying about it right now.

As you pray through this list be sure to give thanks! This list is a reflection of how God is working in and through River West Church. This list is just a small piece of the larger picture of what God is doing in our midst! Next Sunday night at 7 PM we will gather in the sanctuary to pray. I hope you will join us!

Pastor Guy