



BECOME A PERSON WHO DEPENDS ON THE FATHER

SUMMARY:

Like a baby in the womb of his mother, God longs for us to depend on Him for everything. This is called worship. In our world, and especially in our culture, it becomes all too easy to look for tangible things in which to place our trust. We are a society that works hard and makes things happen. Some of us may have grown up in situations where we didn't have a stable environment. Some of us may have grown up in situations where money or work was seen as the ultimate provider. What would it look like to fully depend on God to be our Provider?

Our heavenly Father knows and cares about all our needs. Before we approach Him with our list of worries and necessities, He already knows. Not only that, He promises to meet our every need (not necessarily fulfill every greed). We have a generous Father who invites us in to share in His generosity because He is the God of abundance, not scarcity. And while we may believe that our greatest need is financial or physical, our greatest need is actually spiritual. Our Father needs this need in His Son, Jesus. When we accept the gift of eternal life, we can rest assured that it will never be taken away.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Pastor Derwin opened his message by talking about the way an unborn child depends on his mother in the womb. *Why is this a powerful word-picture? What does this image bring up in you?*

Read Matthew 6:7-13 in the Message version. You can find this on the YouVersion Bible app. The Message is a paraphrase translation written by Eugene Peterson. He was a scholar, pastor, author, and poet who studied the original languages. In Matthew 6:7-13 we read a familiar passage, the Lord's Prayer, but perhaps in unfamiliar wording. Sometimes when we read a biblical passage over and over again in the same wording/translation, we can get used to it. Reading these verses in a different passage helps us to see it in a new and different light.

What stands out to you about the Lord's Prayer in the Message version?

How does this help you see this prayer in a new way?

Read Philippians 4:19. (Feel free to choose your own translation)

What promise does this verse contain?

Reflect on your life in the past week, in what ways has God met your needs?

STORMPROOF

FINDING FAITH IN LIFE'S DIFFICULTIES

Do you find it easy or challenging to trust God to meet your needs? Provide context for your answer.

What is the difference between God meeting our needs vs. our greeds?

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-11.

What do these verses say about God's generosity?

In what ways are we invited to participate in generosity?

Read John 6:35-38.

What is our greatest need?

How does God meet this need?

What is the role of Jesus in meeting this need?

Take a moment to discuss the 10-10-80 model Pastor Derwin mentioned in his sermon. Have you heard of this spending model before? What is new to you? What is challenging to you?

End your time by praying over one another. Start by thanking the Father for the many ways He has been generous with us and end by asking the Holy Spirit to lead us all into a more generous way of living, entering God's circle of generosity.