

NOVEMBER 10-11

2023

PAM HARDY

CALLED

to enduring godliness





Welcome!

Thank you so much for joining us for Cornerstone Church's 2023 Women's Conference: Called to Enduring Godliness. We pray that this conference encourages and grows you in the Lord.

This year, we are excited to have Pam Hardy here to teach us from God's Word! Pam was born and raised in a Christian home in Houston, Texas. Christ graciously called her to salvation while she was in her first year of college. She met her husband Carey at the University of Houston while she was pursuing a degree in nursing, and they were married in 1976. After graduating from college in 1977, Pam worked as a nurse in cardiac intensive care, and then for two physicians in private practice. In 1983, with the birth of her first child, Pam left her nursing career behind and began a full-time career as a mother. One of Pam's greatest joys is studying the Word of God and imparting its truth to other women. For several years Pam taught in the track for wives at the annual Shepherds' Conference at Grace Community Church in Los Angeles. She has continued speaking periodically at retreats and conferences for women across the United States as well as in other countries around the world.

Pam is privileged to be a pastor's wife and she and her husband have had the opportunity to minister in several churches in Texas and California. She currently serves at Carey's side, loving the people he shepherds at Twin City Bible Church in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Her main involvement through the years has been serving in the various women's ministries of the church and playing piano on the worship team. Pam's hobbies include reading, writing, and music, and she is blessed with four adult children and two grandchildren.

Thank you for joining us, we are looking forward to this weekend with you all!



Schedule

Friday

6:15 PM Check-in/Fellowship/Snacks & Dessert

7:00 PM Session 1: Called to be Thankful

Saturday

8:00 AM Breakfast

9:00 AM Session 2: Called to Endure

10:15 AM Break

10:30 AM Session 3: Called to Pray

11:30 AM Group Discussion (Review Sessions 1, 2, & 3)

12:30 PM Lunch & Q&A (Q&A 1-2 pm)

2:10 PM Session 4: Called to be Content

3:25 PM Closing Announcements

O Worship the King

O worship the King, all glorious above
O gratefully sing His power and His love
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days
Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise

O tell of His might, O sing of His grace
Whose robe is the light and canopy space
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds
form
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm

Chorus:

You, O Lord, are the matchless king
Creation declares to us glorious things.
Your loving care, what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
In You do we trust, for You do not fail.
Your mercies how tender, how firm to the end
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend

O measureless might, ineffable love!
While angels delight to worship above
The humble creation, though feeble its ways,
With true adoration shall all sing Your praise

O worship the King, all glorious above
O gratefully sing His power and His love
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days
Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise

Hallelujah! What a Savior!

"Man of Sorrows," what a name
For the Son of God, who came
Ruined sinners to reclaim
Hallelujah! What a Savior

Bearing shame and scoffing rude,
In my place condemned He stood,
Sealed my pardon with His blood.
Hallelujah! What a Savior

Guilty, vile, and helpless we,
Spotless Lamb of God was He.
Full atonement! Can it be?
Hallelujah! What a Savior

Lifted up was He to die;
"It is finished," was His cry;
Now in Heaven exalted high!
Hallelujah! What a Savior

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
What a Savior (repeat)

When He comes, our glorious King,
All His ransomed home to bring,
Then anew this song we'll sing:
Hallelujah! What a Savior

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
What a Savior

Jesus, Thank You

The mystery of the cross I cannot comprehend
The agonies of Calvary
You the perfect holy One crushed Your Son
Who drank the bitter cup reserved for me

Chorus:

Your blood has washed away my sin
Jesus, thank You
The Father's wrath completely satisfied
Jesus, thank You
Once Your enemy, now seated at Your table
Jesus, thank You

By Your perfect sacrifice I've been brought near
Your enemy You've made Your friend
Pouring out the riches of Your glorious grace
Your mercy and Your kindness know no end

Lover of my soul, I want to live for You (repeat)

Rejoice

Rejoice in the Lord now and always,
Sing it again: we rejoice.
Delight in the love He has shown us,
Gratefully lift up your voice.
His gentleness among us will join our hearts with
praise.
We gather in His goodness, a family of grace.

Chorus:

With each breath He's given, praise the Lord
In these times we live in, we will praise the Lord.
Throughout every season, I am sure
We have every reason to praise the Lord.

Rejoice and be anxious for nothing,
Praying for all that you need.
Come with a song of thanksgiving,
Lay your requests at His feet.
His peace will fall upon us to guard our hearts
and minds,
In Christ who reigns eternal, Shepherd of our lives.

Rejoice in the Lord now and always,
Tell of the good He has done.
Worship the Lord to remember
all of the joy yet to come.
The hope that burns within us, the dark cannot
destroy.
With praise that's never-ending, we say again,
Rejoice!

The Power of the Cross

Oh, to see the dawn
Of the darkest day:
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men,
Torn and beaten, then
Nailed to a cross of wood.

Chorus:

This, the pow'r of the cross:
Christ became sin for us;
Took the blame, bore the wrath
We stand forgiven at the cross.

Oh, to see the pain
Written on Your face,
Bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Ev'ry bitter thought,
Ev'ry evil deed
Crowning Your bloodstained brow.

Now the daylight flees;
Now the ground beneath
Quakes as its Maker bows His head.
Curtain torn in two,
Dead are raised to life;
"Finished!" the vict'ry cry.

Oh, to see my name
Written in the wounds,
For through Your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death;
Life is mine to live,
Won through Your selfless love.

Psalm 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that's within me
praise Him
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all He's
done
He forgives all your iniquities and He heals all your
infirmities
He redeems your life from the pit and crowns you
with mercy

Chorus:

As far as the east is from the west
So far have You taken our sins from us
And as high as the heavens are over the earth
So great is Your steadfast love toward us

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that's within me
praise Him
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not who He is
As a father shows compassion to his beloved
children
So the Lord shows compassion to us, to those who
fear Him

Bless the Lord, and all that's within me praise Him
Bless the Lord, and forget not all He's done
Bless the Lord, and all that's within me praise Him
Bless the Lord, and forget not who He is

As a father shows compassion to his beloved
children
So the Lord shows compassion to us, to those who
fear Him

Psalm 62

Only in God is my soul at rest,
In Him is my salvation.
He only is my Rock,
My strength and my salvation.

Chorus:

My stronghold, my Savior,
I shall not be afraid at all.
My stronghold, my Savior,
I shall not be moved.

Only in God is found safety when
Enemies pursue me.
Only in God is found glory when
I'm found weak and lowly.

Our life is only a fleeting breath,
a sigh too brief to measure
My king crushed the curse of death
And I am His forever.

All Creatures of Our God and King

All creatures of our God and King
Lift up your voice and with us sing,
O Praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam!
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong
Ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou rising moon, in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice!
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All the redeemed washed by His blood
Come and rejoice in His great love
O praise Him, alleluia
Christ has defeated every sin
Cast all your burdens now on Him
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship Him in humbleness,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One!
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One!
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery

Come behold the wondrous mystery
In the dawning of the King
He the theme of heaven's praises
Robed in frail humanity
In our longing, in our darkness
Now the Light of Life has come
Look to Christ, Who condescended
Took on flesh to ransom us

Come behold the wondrous mystery
He the perfect Son of Man
In His living, in His suffering
Never trace nor stain of sin
See the true and better Adam
Come to save the hell-bound man
Christ the great and sure fulfillment
Of the law; in Him we stand

Come behold the wondrous mystery
Christ the Lord upon the tree
In the stead of ruined sinners
Hangs the Lamb in victory
See the price of our redemption
See the Father's plan unfold
Bringing many sons to glory
Grace unmeasured, love untold

Come behold the wondrous mystery
Slain by death the God of life
But no grave could e'er restrain Him
Praise the Lord; He is alive!
What a foretaste of deliverance
How unwavering our hope
Christ in power resurrected
As we will be when He comes

What a foretaste of deliverance
How unwavering our hope
Christ in power resurrected
As we will be when He comes

What a Friend

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins
and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in
prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what
needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry everything to God
in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations? Is there
trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; take it to the
Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our
sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to
the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with
a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge, take it to the
Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it
to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms He'll take and shield you; you will
find a solace there.

Blessed Savior, You have promised You will
all our burdens bear;
May we ever, Lord, be bringing all to You in
earnest prayer.
Soon in glory bright unclouded there will be
no need for prayer;
Rapture, praise, and endless worship will be
our sweet portion there.

Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my vision o Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best thought by day or by night
Waking or sleeping Thy presence my light

Be Thou my wisdom and Thou my true word
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one

Riches I heed not nor man's empty praise
Thou mine inheritance now and always
Thou and thou only first in my heart
High King of heaven my treasure Thou art

High King of heaven my victory won
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun
Heart of my own heart whatever befall
Still be my vision, O ruler of all

Heart of my own heart whatever befall
Still be my vision, O ruler of all

"All Creatures of Our God and King" words and music by Ryan and Jonathan Baird,
St. Francis of Assisi, and William Henry Draper
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"Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery" Words and Music by Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Michael Bleecker.

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"Rejoice" Words and Music by Keith & Kristyn Getty, Ben Shive, Skye Peterson and Bryan Fowler

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Session 1:

CALLED TO BE THANKFUL

Pam Hardy

I. EXAMPLES OF INGRATITUDE

A. Adam and Eve

Gen. 3

B. The Children of Israel

Ps. 78:11, 32, 42 *They forgot His deeds and His miracles that He had shown them... in spite of all this they still sinned and did not believe in His wonderful works... they did not remember His power, the day when He redeemed them from the adversary...*

1 Cor. 10:5-11 *...now these things happened as examples for US...now these things happened to them as an example...they were written for OUR instruction...*

When we grumble and complain, we are questioning God's wisdom, goodness, love, and righteousness. Because we believe that God is completely sovereign, our complaining is always ultimately against HIM.

Deut. 1:27

Josh. 9:18

Ps. 106:25

They murmured in their tents and did not obey the voice of the Lord.

Exo. 16:8

...your grumbings are not against us but against the Lord.

Prov. 19:3

Num. 16

Korah's rebellion

II. ELEMENTS OF INGRATITUDE

Our lack of thankfulness is rooted in our sinful flesh (Romans 7), specifically in these elements:

A. Unbelief

Heb 3:12

Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God...

B. Pride

Rom 12:3

...I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think...

Session 1 (continued)

C. Selfishness

James 1:14-15 *But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin...*

James 4:1-3 *Where do wars and fights [come] from among you? Do [they] not [come] from your [desires for] pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have....*

D. Idolatry

Col. 3:5 *Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is IDOLATRY.*

III. EXHORTATIONS TO GRATITUDE

Psa. 107:1-2 *Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His lovingkindness is everlasting. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so...*

Phil. 4:6 *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*

Col. 2:7 *...having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed and overflowing with gratitude*

1 Thess. 5:18 *...in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

Heb. 13:15 *Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.*

Eph 5:4 *...and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.*

***EXAMINE YOUR HEART:** Are you a grumbler and complainer? Or a truster and a thanker? Remember what you deserve – and the grace you've been given instead. Begin and end your day with thanksgiving and intentionally remind your heart of all you have to be grateful for.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES:

Growing in Gratitude: Rediscovering the Joy of a Thankful Heart by Mary Mohler

Idols of the Heart by Elyse Fitzpatrick

Session 1 (continued.)

DESIRE

LUST

Examples:

1. Happy Marriage
2. Children
3. Nice Clothes, House, Etc.
4. Get Married

Defined:

- Not happy (content) if I don't get it
- and/or
- Willing to disobey God to have it

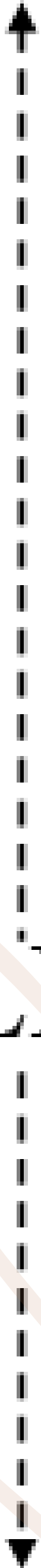
Jms. 4:1-3

Jms. 1:14-16

Session 1 (continued).

EXPECTATIONS (LUSTS/IDOLS)

- Irritation
- Frustration
- Discontentment
- Discouragement
- Anger
- Bitterness
- Depression



REALITY

WHAT I REALLY DESERVE

Session 2:

CALLED TO ENDURE

Pam Hardy

"...rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer..." (Rom. 12:12, NASB)

THREE KEYS TO ENDURING FAITHFULLY

I CONFIDENT HOPE (v. 12a)

Biblical hope is totally different from the world's hope. God's hope is something that is *certain* but not yet *realized*. It is based on His character and His promises and therefore we can trust it. Our hope is not based on what we can see, but on the eternal things which are unseen.

HOPE

Ps. 39:7

And now O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in You.

Rom. 8:23-25

For we are saved by hope...

Romans 15:13 -14

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that in the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Heb. 6:19

This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a [hope] both sure and steadfast...

1 Pet. 1:3

...He has caused us to be born again to a living hope thru the resurrection of Jesus Christ...

Rom. 5:2

2 Cor. 3:18

2 Cor. 4:16-18

1 Thes. 5:8

Titus 2:13

Heb. 11

1 John 3:2-3

And what does biblical hope result in? Joy!

JOY

Neh. 8:10

...for the joy of the Lord is your strength.

John 15:11

These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you...

Gal. 5:22

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace...

Matt. 25:21

1 Cor. 15:58

We are *commanded* in scripture to rejoice –

Phil. 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say, rejoice.

Ps. 32:11

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous ones; And shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart...

Session 2 (continued.)

Psa. 100:1-2

Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness...

II. STEADFAST PERSEVERANCE (v. 12b)

Trials are inevitable in this life but in Christ we have the strength to persevere -

Job 5:7

For man is born to trouble...

James 1:2-3

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials...

1 Pet. 4:12-13

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing...

John 16:33

...in the world you will have tribulation but be of good cheer. I have overcome the world.

James 5:7-8

...strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

Mk. 13:13

Many benefits that result from our trials –

Deut. 8:2,16

...testing you, to know what was in your heart...

Rom. 5:3-4

...knowing that suffering produces endurance...character...hope...

James 1:2-4

...the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

Phil. 3:10

...that I may know Him...

Rom. 8:17

2 Cor. 1:4-5; 4:17

1 Pet. 1:6-7; 5:10

III. DILIGENT PRAYER (v. 12c)

If we are to endure, we must be diligent in prayer. The encouragement and comfort we receive in prayer is what makes our endurance possible.

Psa. 62:8

Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us.

Phil 4:6-7

...let your requests be made known to God...

Heb. 4:16

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and grace...

Luke 11:8-9; 18:1

BEFORE you pray, remember:

- *We must be holy*

Psa. 66:18

If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear.

Is. 59:1,2

Session 2 (continued.)

James 5:16

- *We must be humble*

Ps. 9:12

...He does not forget the cry of the humble.

- *We must be obedient*

Prov. 28:9

One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination.

1 John 3:22

- *We must be sincere*

Jer. 29:12,13

Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

AS you pray, remember:

- *Seek God's will and God's glory*

1 John 5:14,15

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

John 14:13,14

James 4:3

- *Ask in faith*

James 1:6-8

But let him ask in faith, with no doubting...for let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord...

Matt. 21:22

- *Be persistent*

Col. 4:2

Eph. 6:18

1 Thes. 5:17

Rom. 12:12

Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving...

...praying always

...pray without ceasing

- *Be passionate*

James 5:16

The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

Session 2 (continued.)

- ***Be patient***

Ps. 40:1

I waited patiently for the Lord; and He inclined to me and heard my cry.

Suggestions from D.A. Carson:

- ***Set aside time to pray***
 - ***Consider developing a prayer-partner relationship***
 - ***Choose models and study their content, their humility, their boldness, their passion***
 - ***Develop a system for your prayer lists***
 - ***Adopt practical ways to keep your mind focused***
 - ***In your prayers, mingle praise, confession, and intercession; but when you intercede, think through, in light of scripture, what it is that God wants us to ask for***
- (D.A. Carson, *A Call to Reformation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.)

John Bunyan:

You can do more than pray, after you have prayed, But you cannot do more than pray, until you have prayed.

S.D. Gordon:

The greatest thing anyone can do for God and for man is to pray. It is not the only thing. But it is the chief thing.

CONCLUSION

As we faithfully endure in the midst of suffering, we must understand the importance of the *indicative* and the *imperative*:

The Indicative: *who* we are in Christ - our POSITION (Eph. 1-3)

The Imperative: *what* we are commanded to do - our PRACTICE (Eph. 4-6)

Indicative without the imperative = disobedience, laziness

Imperative without the indicative = legalism

Session 3:
CALLED TO PRAY
Pam Hardy

Phil. 4:6,7 – *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

I. PRAYER IS COMMANDED (v. 6)

Ps. 55:22; 62:8
Matt. 7:7
Luke 18:1
Col. 4:2
1 Thess. 5:17

II. PRAYER IS COMPREHENSIVE (v. 6)

Luke 10:41
2 Cor. 12:10
James 1:2

III. PRAYER IS COMFORTING (v. 7)

Ps. 5:1-3; 34; 57:1; 61:1,2; 62:8; 66:19-20; 116:1; 145:18
Jer. 29:12,13
Heb. 4:16
1 Pet. 5:7
1 John 5:14-15

BEFORE you pray, remember:

- *We must be holy*

Ps. 66:18 *If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear.*
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- *We must be humble*

Ps. 9:12 *...He does not forget the cry of the humble.*

Session 3 (continued)

- ***We must be obedient***

Prov. 28:9 *One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination.*

1 John 3:22

- ***We must be sincere***

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- ***Ask in faith***

James 1:6-8 *But let him ask in faith, with no doubting...for let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord...*

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- ***Be persistent***

Col. 4:2 *Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving...*

Rom. 12:12

Eph. 6:18

1 Thess. 5:17

- ***Be passionate***

James 5:16 *The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*

Session 3 (continued)

- ***Be patient***

Ps. 40:1 *I waited patiently for the Lord; and He inclined to me and heard my cry.*

D.A. Carson:

- ***Adopt practical ways to keep your mind focused***
 - Vocalize your prayers
 - Pray through biblical passages
 - Pray the prayers of scripture and personalize them (Eph. 1,3; Phil. 1; Col. 1)
- ***In your prayers, mingle praise, confession, and intercession; but when you intercede, think through, in light of scripture, what it is that God wants us to ask for***

John Bunyan:

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Session 3 (continued)

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Arthur Bennett, *The Valley of Vision*

Barbara Duguid, *Prone to Wander: Prayers of Confession and Celebration*

Kenneth Boa, *Face to Face: Praying the Scriptures for Intimate Worship*

John MacArthur, *Lord, Teach Me to Pray*

NOT I BUT CHRIST

(Author Unknown)

The following are some of the features and manifestations of the self-life. The Holy Spirit alone can interpret and apply this to your individual case. As you read, examine yourself in the very presence of God. Are you ever conscious of:

A secret spirit of pride – an exalted feeling, in view of your success or position; because of your good training or appearance; because of your natural gifts and abilities? An important, independent spirit?

Love of human praise – a secret fondness to be noticed; love of supremacy; drawing attention to self in conversation; a swelling out of self when you have had a free time in speaking or praying?

The stirrings of anger or impatience – which worst of all, you call nervousness or holy indignation; a touchy, sensitive spirit; a disposition to resent or retaliate when disapproved of or contradicted; a desire to throw sharp, heated flings at another?

Self-will – a stubborn, unteachable spirit; an arguing, talkative spirit; harsh, sarcastic expressions; an unyielding, head- strong disposition; a driving, commanding spirit; a disposition to criticize and pick flaws when set aside and unnoticed; a peevish, fretful spirit; a disposition that loves to be coaxed and humored?

Carnal fear – a man-fearing spirit; a shrinking from reproach and duty; reasoning around your cross; a shrinking from doing your whole duty by those of wealth or position; a fearfulness that someone will offend and drive some prominent person away; a compromising spirit?

A jealous disposition – a secret spirit of envy shut up in your heart; an unpleasant sensation in view of the prosperity and success of another; a disposition to speak of the faults and failings, rather than the gifts and virtues of those more talented and appreciated than yourself?

A dishonest, deceitful disposition – the evading and covering of the truth; the covering up of your real faults; leaving a better impression of yourself than is strictly true; false humility; exaggeration; straining the truth?

Session 3 (continued)

Unbelief – a spirit of discouragement in times of pressure and opposition; lack of quietness and confidence in God; lack of faith and trust in God; a disposition to worry and complain in the midst of pain, poverty, or at the dispensations of divine providence; an overanxious feeling whether everything will come out all right?

Formality and deadness – lack of concern for lost souls; dryness and indifference; lack of power with God?

Selfishness – love of ease, love of money?

These are some of the traits that generally indicate a heart focused on self. By prayer, hold your heart open to the searchlight of God, until you see the groundwork thereof. “Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me.” (Psalm 139:23,24)

The Holy Spirit will enable you, by confession and faith, to bring your “self-life” to the death. Do not patch over, but go to the bottom. It alone will pay.

Oh, to be saved from myself, dear Lord,
Oh, to be lost in Thee;
Oh, that it might be no more I,
But Christ that lives in me.

“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.” (Psalm 51:10)

Session 3 (continued.)

PRAYERS FROM SCRIPTURE

Eph. 1:15-19 – Therefore I ... do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe according to the working of His mighty power...

Eph. 3:14-19 – For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height – to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Phil. 1:9-11 – And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Col. 1:9-12 – For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

Session 3 (continued)

SUGGESTIONS FOR INTERCESSORY PRAYER REQUESTS:

SPIRITUAL CONDITION (for all loved ones)

Genuine salvation

Spiritual sensitivity (a tender, open heart toward spiritual things)

An enduring love for and obedient attitude toward Jesus Christ and His Word

True repentance and sorrow over their sin

A strong desire to know God and glorify Him

A strong desire for Bible study and scripture memorization

CHARACTER QUALITIES (for all loved ones)

Fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control

Unselfishness, sacrificial love, and forgiveness toward others (especially toward other family members)

A love for honesty and truth (and a hatred for lying!)

Humility and a grateful spirit

Holiness/godliness in daily living

Wisdom/seeking God's guidance in decisions

That they would conquer their personal areas of weakness (list them) (Ex: pride, selfishness, anger, etc.)

Special requests for husbands

Purity and faithfulness (mental, emotional, physical)

Leadership in the family (family worship, setting standards, etc.)

Wisdom in decision-making

I Tim 3:2-7 (above reproach, husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous, one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence, not a novice, having a good reputation among those who are outside the church)

Titus 1:5-9 (blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful Word that he may be able to exhort and convict)

Special requests for children

Love and respect for parents/a submissive, obedient, teachable spirit

That they would learn to personally trust God and depend on Him at all times

Leadership qualities (integrity, wisdom, discernment, and courage)

Courage to stand against peer pressure and temptation (not be controlled by "fear of man")

Moral purity/physical purity till marriage (daughters especially: concern for modest dress)

That they would someday be a godly wife or godly husband

Pray for future spouse (genuinely converted, live a godly life, be obedient to the Word)

Physical protection for children

Session 3 (continued)

“FOR OUR CHILDREN”

By Amy Carmichael

Father, hear us, we are praying,
Hear the words our hearts are saying,
We are praying for our children.

Keep them from the powers of evil,
From the secret, hidden peril,
From the whirlpool that would suck them,
From the treacherous quicksand pluck them.

From the worldling's hollow gladness,
From the sting of faithless sadness,
Holy Father, save our children.

Through life's troubled waters steer them,
Through life's bitter battle cheer them,
Father, Father, be Thou near them.
Read the language of our longing,
Read the wordless pleadings thronging,
Holy Father, for our children.

And wherever they may bide,
Lead them Home at eventide.

Session 3 (continued)

SUGGESTED OUTLINE FOR PRAYER NOTEBOOK

Remember this is YOUR notebook – feel free to personalize it any way you want! These are just some suggestions for how you might want to organize it.

I. PREPARATION

- “Not I But Christ”
- other “heart-examination” tools

II. PRAISE

- A. Scripture
 - favorite scriptures/psalms
 - Bible studies
 - attributes of God, names of Christ, etc.
- B. Music
 - lyrics to favorite hymns, choruses, etc.

III. PRAYER

8 Prayer Category Dividers

- A. Short-Term Requests
 - for prayer requests you can expect a quick resolution to
- B. Personal Requests
 - for your own spiritual growth
- C. Family
- D. Friends
- E. Church
 - pastors
 - ministries (Sem. Wives, Bible study groups, fellowship groups, etc.)
 - for our church’s world-wide ministry
- F. Missionaries
- G. Nation/World
- H. Other
 - can include anyone not in the other categories: unsaved neighbors, etc

For each person you plan to pray for regularly: Make an insertable tab divider with their name on it. Fill out a “title page” for them with starting date, scripture references, and a list of long-term prayer requests on it. Place the title page after the tab divider and follow this with white paper for your daily entries. Then put the set of pages behind an appropriate prayer category divider (family, friends, church, etc.). Pray systematically through your list, just one request at a time, and you should be able to pray through it several times in a year. At times, you may need to depart from the list in order to pray about current concerns and situations, but when there is no pressing issue at the moment, go back to your list.

To make prayer category dividers and title pages: It is better to make these out of colored stock paper or tab dividers instead of white paper (so they will be more easily seen.)

Questions for Group Discussion

Session 1 Discussion Questions (Called to be Thankful):

- As Pam outlined for us, our lack of thankfulness is rooted in our sinful flesh - specifically in unbelief, pride, selfishness, and idolatry. Explain how each of these things leads to unthankfulness. How have you seen this to be true in your own life?
- In what ways are you tempted towards grumbling and complaining? How can you practically be putting off ungrateful thoughts, words, and actions, be renewed in your mind to have a thankful heart, and put on thoughts, words, and actions that are thankful to God?
- What are some things (God's character, promises, actions towards you, His grace in your life, etc.) that you can thank the Lord for this week?

Session 2 Discussion Questions (Called to Endure):

- In who or what are you commonly tempted to set your hope? How does setting your hope on Christ differ from setting your hope on external/circumstantial things? What is the outcome of both? Why then are we so easily tempted and give in to placing our hope on something other than Christ?
- Why is prayer so key to our endurance in trials and suffering?
- Scripture outlines many benefits to trials. Which might you need to remind yourself of during difficulty? (See Deut. 8:2, 16; Rom 5:3-4; James 1:2-4; Phil 3:10; 1 Pet 1:6-7, 5:10; 2 Cor 1:4-5, 4:17 from the notes)
- Explain the difference between the Indicative (who we are in Christ) and the imperative (what we are commanded to do). Why is it vital to emphasize both of these?

(Continued on the next page)

Questions for Group Discussion (Continued)

Session 3 Discussion Questions (Called to Pray):

- In what areas of your life do you need to grow in bringing your cares to the Lord, as explained in Philippians 4:6-7? What specifically do you need to pray about?
- Why should we pray? (See points I, II, and III from the outline) Why do you think we so often struggle to pray as we should? What lies are we believing, sin are we holding on to, or what wrong things are we loving when we don't pray as we should?
- When do you regularly pray to the Lord? Are you even doing so? How much time are you devoting to bringing your cares and concerns to God? How might you need to adjust, if anything, your daily prayers?
- When you pray are you merely asking God for things, or are you also praising God and thanking him for who he is and how he has blessed you?

Q & A Session Notes



Q & A Session Notes Continued



Session 4:
CALLED TO BE CONTENT
Pam Hardy

Burroughs: Christian contentment is that sweet, inward, gracious frame of spirit, which freely submits to and delights in God's wise and fatherly disposal in every condition.

I. THE BARRIERS TO CONTENTMENT

A. **Pride/selfishness**

- **Materialism**

1 Tim 6:6 Matt 6:25-33
Ps. 62:10 Ec. 5:10
Heb 13:5 Prov. 23:4-5; 30:8

- **Unrealistic expectations in life**

James 4:1-2

- **Fear of man**

Prov. 29:25

B. **Trials and suffering**

C. **Wrong view of God**

- **Doubt His goodness**
- **Doubt His love**
- **Doubt His wisdom**

II. THE PATHWAY TO CONTENTMENT

Phil. 4:10-13
2 Cor. 3:5; 12:9-10
Ps. 25:14

What should we focus on?

1. **Focus on your relationship with Christ**

Ps. 16:5 2 Pet. 1:3
Col. 1:19, 2:3 Ps. 63

Session 4 (continued.)

2. Focus on His character – goodness, wisdom, sovereignty

Ps. 25:8; 34:8

Ps. 147:5

Rom. 11:33-34

Ps. 103:19; 115:3

3. Focus on His Word

Ps. 119

Rom 12:2

4. Focus on eternal things

2 Cor. 4:17

5. Focus on what we really deserve

Gen. 32:10

6. Focus on serving others

Phil 2:3-4

7. Focus on living one day at a time

Matt 6:34

III. THE PORTRAIT OF CONTENTMENT

Ps. 107:23-32

Prov. 31:25

Mark 4:35-41

Ps. 112:7

Matt. 11:28

Ps. 23: 1-6

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Burroughs, Jeremiah, *The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment*

DeMoss, Nancy Leigh, *Surrender: The Heart God Controls*

Session 4 (continued.)

“A Quiet Mind”

*(Amy Carmichael, *Toward Jerusalem.**

[Fort Washington, PA: Christian Literature Crusade, 1977]

Used by Permission.)


*What room is there for troubled fear?
I know my Lord, and He is near;
And He will light my candle, so
That I may see the way to go.*

*There need be no bewilderment
To one who goes where he is sent;
The trackless plain by night and day
Is set with signs, lest he should stray.*

*My path may cross a waste of sea,
But that need never frighten me;
Or rivers full to very brim,
But they are open ways to Him.*

*My path may lead through woods at night,
Where neither moon nor any light
Of guiding star or beacon shines;
He will not let me miss my signs.*

*Lord, grant to me a quiet mind,
That trusting Thee, for Thou art kind,
I may go on without a fear,
For Thou, my Lord, art always near.*



Session 4 (continued).

“God the All”
(Arthur Bennett, *The Valley of Vision*)

*O God whose will conquers all,
There is no comfort in anything
Apart from enjoying Thee
And being engaged in thy service;
Thou art All in all, and all enjoyments are what to me
Thou makest them, and no more.
I am well pleased with Thy will, whatever it is,
or should be in all respects,
And if Thou bidst me decide for myself in any affair
I would choose to refer all to Thee,
For Thou art infinitely wise and cannot do amiss,
As I am in danger of doing.
I rejoice to think that all things are at Thy disposal,
And it delights me to leave them there.
I can of myself do nothing to glorify Thy blessed name,
But I can through grace cheerfully surrender soul
And body to Thee.*



Extra Notes

