

*"...having the eyes of your heart enlightened..." Ephesians 1:18*

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## Welcome Visitors!

You are our honored guests and we are pleased that you have chosen to visit us today. Our goal is to do everything according to God's word, including respecting its silence. This is a church of Christ; we are not a denomination, not part of anything larger than this local church and we have no earthly "headquarters." The five elders oversee this work and, ultimately, we answer only to Christ. The comments you hear today are primarily aimed at our own members, as we examine Scripture and seek to be built up in our faith in Christ. If you don't understand something, please do not hesitate to ask one of the elders. We welcome and appreciate your comments and questions on any issue and especially if you see or hear anything that you feel does not correspond to God's word. We are here to serve; please help us do that.

**Please fill out a visitor's card and put it in the collection plate. Thank You**

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### Schedule

#### **The Lord's Day**

**9:30 AM – Classes**

**Auditorium: The Gospel**

**13/14: Jesus in the Gospel of John**

**10:30 AM– Assembly**

**Speaking today: David Posey**

#### **2 PM Class at the Building**

**Room 13/14**

**Minor Prophets**

**5 PM (building)**

**Proverbs**

#### **Weekly Young Adults Class**

**Class at Posey's: 5 PM**

**Tuesday AM Class**

**10 AM at the Building**

**Wednesday, 7 PM**

**Auditorium: The Gospel**

**13/14: Jesus in the Gospel of John**

**Men's Saturday Morning Meeting**

**7 AM, second Saturday of the month (see Tyler Wade)**

### Information

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#### **Website & Online Presence**

Visit our website at [www.folsomchurch.com](http://www.folsomchurch.com) for updates and material on current and past classes, and recorded sermons and classes. You will also find a directory of churches on page one. If you are a member of the church here at Folsom, see one of the deacons or elders to inquire about access to the password - protected members section. Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/folsomchurch>

#### **Children's Classes**

We have classes for children from 18 months and up. Please see the map in the hallway or ask any of the members which room is appropriate for you and/or your child. There are several Bible studies in progress on Sunday afternoon and evening. Check with David Posey if you have questions.

#### **Restrooms**

There are two sets of restrooms: one off the first hallway to the right of the lobby and another at the end of the first hallway to the left. Ask anyone and they'll be happy to point you in the right direction.

#### **For Small Children**

There is a special room for nursing mothers and a separate "cry room" at the rear of the auditorium. You enter them from the first hallway to the right, across from the restrooms.

#### **View & Junior View**

Be sure to pick up a copy of the View and Junior View; both are sent out weekly to our member list and hard copies are printed on Sundays and available in the foyer.

# Let's Talk About Prayer

By DAVID POSEY

I know there are some home studies on prayer going on here at Folsom — and that's wonderful! I sincerely believe that a praying church is a growing church, a strong church. And, it is a crucial aspect of our personal life in Christ. As the poet George Herbert (1593–1633), said, "*Prayer should be the key of the day and the lock of the night.*"

But prayer does not always come easily. Jesus' disciples begged Jesus to teach them to pray in Luke 11:1:

Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."

For years, I struggled with knowing how to pray. My exposure to prayer was primarily at the church building and the prayers were offered by articulate older men. They were ultra-formal and always in King James Version language. In other words, there were a lot of "thees" and "thous" and even some "knoweths" and "keepeths."

I remember one man, in particular, who was so articulate, he scarred me for life. He had a really deep voice, a classic voice, and he would begin with thanking God for allowing us to come into His throne room. I cannot honestly say that I felt like I was in God's throne room; in fact, I wasn't really sure what that "throne room" looked like — I had never been in a throne room.

I've never really cared for drama or flowery oratory. It doesn't seem real to me. I feel when people pray they ought to talk like normal people. As far as I know, there is no separate "prayer language."

I'm sure, like me, you've heard men say "Gawwd" for God or "Jaayysus," for "Jesus" — but only when they prayed. It was a "churchy" language and didn't seem real. Fortunately, you don't hear that as much today, except by some TV preachers.

I also feel that the term "prayer" itself can leave the wrong idea. The term "to pray" originally meant to "entreat" or "ask earnestly." It didn't necessarily have religious significance. Jesus uses a couple of examples that define the term. In Luke 11:5ff, to illustrate the effect of prayer, he talks about a man who goes to his friend and *earnestly asks* him, "lend me three loaves..." In old England, he might have said, "Friend, I pray thee, give me three loaves."

Later, in Luke 18, Jesus talks about the persistent widow who kept "praying" to the judge, "Give me justice! Give me justice!" Again, there is nothing inherently religious about the word. I think that's the point. She was talking to the judge; when we pray, we are talking to God, albeit with reverence and awe.

Another issue that affected me negatively were all the cliches I heard in prayers. Again, the problem was that men were not talking like they normally

talked. They used phrases like "beds of affliction" or "roads of travel." Instead of asking God to help the doctors, they spoke of "hands that were ministering" to the sick. When thanking God for food, instead of thanking him that sister Brown was a really good cook, gracious and hospitable, the man prayed for meal and the "hands that prepared it." Why only the hands?

When you hear such hackneyed phrases, your first thought, as a young person, is not that this man is speaking to someone who can hear him, but is using some kind of special code language.

I also had a misconception about *when* God could hear me pray. I wouldn't have articulated it this way, but I grew up thinking that God had office hours. They began when I said, "Dear Heavenly Father" and ended when I said "in Jesus name, amen"; actually, I think most young people think that was one word: "*injesusnameamen.*" This led to a major anxiety issue because when I prayed at night, if I fell asleep before I said "*injesusnameamen,*" I would wake up thinking the prayer never made it up to God.

I don't know when it occurred to me that prayer is simply talking to God and that you can do it any time, any place and for any length of time. Jesus settled the long prayer issue when he prayed the model prayer, a discourse shorter than the Gettysburg Address.

He was teaching us that prayer is not actually modeled by those long, eloquent but cliché-filled prayers that I heard in the past; prayer is modeled by Jesus. We know Jesus prayed long prayers, because we're told he spent the night in prayer but those were in private and prayers from Son to Father. As far as we know, he never prayed a long prayer in public, with the exception, perhaps of the prayer in John 17. That prayer was sermonical — he was teaching while praying. There are occasions when longer prayers are appropriate and appreciated. But those seem to be the exception, not the rule. Short prayers are definitely biblical. Nehemiah famously prayed the shortest prayer on record (see Nehemiah 2:4). I love that prayer and what it teaches me.

So...there is confusion, misinterpretation, rules without authority, emphasis on things Jesus didn't emphasize. All of these make prayer seem less accessible to the person sitting in the pew.

It's better to put that all aside and just talk to your awesome Father several times a day. Thank him — a lot. Ask for things you really need but always "according to his will." Confess your sins and failures. And, do it from the heart. The famous John Bunyan said, "*In prayer it is better to have a heart without words than words without a heart.*"

“If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.”

*John 15:19*

## Language

When I met Christie at an assembly where my dad was preaching over 50 years, I was so smitten by her that I didn't remember the sermon at all. But Christie did; it was a sermon, she said, on “euphemisms.” A euphemism is a word substituted for another word that is harsh, coarse or profane. I'm not sure how my dad preached against it, because I've found it hard to preach on the topic without violating the point of the lesson — which would be, “don't use them.” In any case, we've gone way past euphemisms. I don't think it's just because I'm now a senior citizen — I try hard to stay up on current events — but when did using that word-that-starts-with-the-letter-just-before-“g” — or any of its vulgar siblings — become OK? Even one of the sources I use for this column includes links to web pages that use that word, often without warning (I typically remove all links unless I'm sure they don't include any vulgarity. I think the link under “Parenting” is safe).

Paul said all I need to know on this topic in Ephesians 5:3-4,

But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.

## From Culture Translator

### If It Ain't Broke...

**What it is:** Recently revamped app IRL seeks to “fight social isolation among young people by making them more active.”

**Why it's ironic:** From the beginning, social media was pitched as the new and improved way to bring people together and forge community. Yet even though users have more “friends” than was ever possible throughout history, they're also lonelier than ever due to increased screen use and less IRL interaction. It seems that social media is more *media* than social and that the boring, old way of

making friends wasn't so bad after all. So can *yet another* app find the best of both approaches? It remains to be seen. IRL is built around organizing real-life events and get togethers with real-life friends, rather than sheer amount of time spent on the app. But in the end, it is still a company trying to profit from our social lives.

## Sports

Colts quarterback Andrew Luck has retired at 29 years old. His decision has rocked the NFL community and angered many Colts fans. Luck's stated reasoning behind his decision to retire was a string of injuries, including a lacerated kidney and a mysterious problem with his leg that has been plaguing him through the offseason.

Critics have called Luck “wimpy” and “indefensible” for backing out of his contract, but there are very real questions surrounding the long-term health for players who spend long careers in football. If your child is a football fan, this is a great lead-in to a conversation about healthy priorities, team loyalties, and how to know where the right place is to draw a line between the two.

## Parenting

It's a banner day, marking the end of an era and the beginning of a new kind of relationship with your young adult. So why does dropping your teen off at college feel so painful? Whether you've been through it before or you're just dreading the prospect of bringing your teen to set up their college dorm, [a piece](#) in *The Atlantic* this week explores this emotional landmark. At the root of it, the writer argues, is dread—dread of mortality, of time marching on without you, that your usefulness has come to an end, and a chapter in your life as a parent is over. Or maybe it's just really sad and scary to leave your kid in uncharted territory without you! Either way, it's an interesting reflection on parenting.

*dp*