

Learning To Lean



Part One - December 29, 2019

OPEN

What vision is God giving to you for 2020?

The annual change of calendar brings with it a new perspective – which may cause excitement and anticipation; or it may bring fear and apprehension.

For us as a Cornerstone community, whether we have to relocate or not, we still need to grow in dependence upon God.

DIG

In **Exodus 33:15** Moses prayed, “If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here.”

In **Proverbs 3:5-6** we read, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

What is the most essential way that we can express our trust in God? Prayer! And let’s remember that communication with God in prayer involves both speaking *and* listening. Prayer gives us the opportunity to *lean into* what God is doing – as opposed to creating our agenda and then expecting God to “make it so”.

Timothy Keller writes that, “it is remarkable that in all of his writings Paul’s prayer for his friends contain no appeals for changes in their circumstances.” Instead, what we find is Paul pledging his prayer support so that Christians would come to know Jesus better. To know Jesus better, these Christians in turn must learn to prayer.

“To fail to pray, then is not to merely break some religious rule – it is a failure to treat God as God.” (**Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God**, Penquin, 2014, 20, 26)

Today and the next two weeks we will look at Psalms 145, 146, 147 as we “learn to lean”.

Having cited many powerful and faithful works of God, the author of **Psalm 145:13b-15** then tells us to lean upon God:

The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does. The Lord upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down. The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.

In his song, author John Stallings offered this personal testimony:

*The joy I can’t explain filled my soul the day I made Jesus my king
His Blessed Holy Spirit is leading my way, He’s teaching and I’m learning to lean
Learning to lean, learning to lean, I’m learning to lean on Jesus
Finding more power than I’ve ever dreamed, I’m learning to lean on Jesus*

REFLECT

Mahatma Gandhi said, “I like your Christ. I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ.” Perhaps one of the reasons that we often are unlike Jesus is that we are not leaning into Him in deep and sincere trust.

One of strategy to learn to lean upon God more intentionally is to pray for “seven mountains”. This is a way to pray for several significant spheres of influence in our cities. As you can imagine, each of these areas of activity have an influence upon our society in some way. Let us pray for God’s glory, peace, righteousness, and justice within these realms.

Today I asked seven people who are passionate about one of these realms to share thoughts and pray for “their “mountain”.

[1] *Arts and the media*

[2] *Education*

[3] *Churches*

[4] *Families*

[5] *Government*

[6] *Business*

[7] *Health Care and 1st Responders*