

## SOME QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION:

—Just like every other week, these questions are intended to help you develop a greater understanding and appreciation for what God has provided to stabilize and strengthen your faith. They also can be used as a resource for small/growth group studies or family devotional times.

—In the introduction to this sermon (May 1, 2022) these questions were asked. They can provoke some soul-searching thoughts as well as some good discussion.

—How do you sense that the **condition** and **circumstances** of our **culture** have influenced our prayer lives?

—What are the most pressing prayer requests that we have?

—How have the condition and circumstances of our culture impacted our **personal worldview** or our **personal thoughts about God**? —or our potential to worry or fret?

—What personal thoughts come to your mind when you read the following quotations made by well-known Christian leaders?

“What a special privilege it is to be **called to represent Christ** at this pivotal moment of history! **We are called for such a time as this.** And **we must pray that our light might shine more brightly than ever in our darkening world.**” —Erwin W. Lutzer

“Sometimes it helps to begin our prayers by confessing we don't feel like praying—and ask God to help us with our desire to be doing something else.” —David Jeremiah

“Prayer is an acknowledgment that our need of God's help is not partial but total.” —Alistair Begg

“Prayer is not an intercom to call the maid for more refreshments, but instead it's a walkie-talkie to the general from the front lines for more resources for the battle.” —adapted from several pastors

—What is your greatest hindrance to maintaining a faithful prayer life? What steps could you take to conquer it?

—How can we know whether to continue praying for something or to determine that God's answer is possibly/probably “No!”?

—How would following Paul's prayer as a model transform the way you typically pray?

—Looking at the request made by Paul asking the Christ might dwell in our hearts, let's recognize that He wants to make our lives into His permanent home. That's what the word “dwell” means. Since Christ bought us when He died and rose again for our sin, He actually takes ownership of our lives—they become His home. If He would begin some specific “house-cleaning,” what areas of our lifestyles would need “sprucing up?” What areas would need “deep cleaning?” How comfortable would He be when He “moves in?”

—From a practical and personal perspective, what does being rooted and grounded in the love of Christ say about one's relationship with the Lord? For some additional study on this, John 15, Romans 5, and Psalm 1 might provide some additional insights.

—*Galatians 5:22–25 lists the fruit of the Holy Spirit and provides some encouragement that relates to living in the power of the Spirit. Please notice what these verses say and consider the questions that follow.*

*(22 “...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.)*

—*What reasons could there be that love is listed first?*

—*What should be the results if/when we walk by the power of the Spirit?*

—*How do Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3:14–21 and what he says about the fruit of the Spirit relate to one another?*

—*How would this apply to our lives in a personal and practical way?*