

**FIRST CORINTHIANS**  
**Lesson 68–March 7, 2021**

If you're in the resident congregation turn off your electronic devices and put them away. Let this be a place where you aren't distracted by the world.

**Welcome To**  
**BARAH MINISTRIES**  
*a Christian Church*

**Rory Clark**  
**Pastor-Teacher**

Good Morning!

Welcome to Barah Ministries...an intimate, local Christian Church with worldwide impact. My name is Pastor Rory Clark. Welcome to this Bible lesson!

Who is Jesus Christ? At Barah Ministries we know this truth...that Jesus Christ is God. Philippians, Chapter 2, Verses 5 to 7...

PHILIPPIANS 2:5

*Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus (an attitude of humility)...*

PHILIPPIANS 2:6

*...who, although He is the exact same in essence as God the Father (100% Deity)...did not regard His equality with God the Father as a thing to be seized and held onto...*

PHILIPPIANS 2:7

*...instead, the Lord emptied Himself (the Greek word kenoo...depriving Himself of the rightful functions of Deity for a time)...taking on the essence of a bond-servant (100% true humanity) ...and being made in the likeness of men...*

The Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the Son of Man...he is the God-Man...He is the Sovereign God of the Universe...He is the Jewish Messiah...He is the Savior of the whole world. In the world, it's not what you know...it's who you know. It's the same in Christianity...and who believers know is the CHRIST!

Why does Barah Ministries exist? At Barah Ministries, we make a difference by teaching the Word of God, verse-by-verse, from God's perspective and not from man's perspective. We are Christians and we have a deep, intimate, and personal relationship with the Lord. Acts, Chapter 17, Verse 11 tells us...

ACTS 17:11

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*Now the Berean believers were more noble-minded than those believers in Thessalonica...for the Berean believers received the Word of God with great eagerness...examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things (the apostle Paul was teaching) were true.*

We ask you to always compare what is taught here to what the Bible says. That's not just an invitation, it's a responsibility!

Who is God's enemy? It's Satan, whom God made 'the ruler of this world.' In John, Chapter 12, Verse 31, the Lord says...

**JOHN 12:31**

*"Now judgment is upon this world...now the ruler of this world (Satan) will be cast out (he will be dethroned at a future time)."*

Satan is a creature. He is not a "symbol of evil." He is not a concept. He isn't a cartoon character with a red epidermis and a pitchfork. He is a perfect, gorgeous, well-dressed, former officer angel, and a brilliant genius. Satan deceives the whole world, including you and me. He blinds the minds of unbelievers so they don't get to know God and so they don't see the power of the gospel message...and he interferes with the believer's chance to become intimate with God through the study of the Word of God. If not for God's protective power, we would be defenseless against him.

The spiritual life is warfare, and your soul is the battleground. Believers in Christ are not fighting FOR the victory in this warfare...we are operating FROM victorious ground! Those of us who are in union with Christ has the victory over Satan through our Lord, who has overcome the world. James, Chapter 4, Verses 7 says...

**JAMES 4:7**

*Submit to God (by obeying Him). Resist the devil (by standing your victorious ground against Him) and he will flee from you.*

**TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON**

**God Wants You to Have a Positive Impact on Others**

*LESSON INTRODUCTION*

I was at my 35<sup>th</sup> high school reunion in 2007. I'm not big on high school and college reunions, but I did want to see what had become of some of my high school friends, and I also wanted to see if I could gather any information about what people remembered about me from high school.

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A guy I knew, whose name was Paul, came up to me and shook my hand rather vigorously as if we had been really good friends. We were acquaintances. I thought he was a nice guy, but we just didn't run in the same circles. He said, "Rory Clark! Man...I loved you in high school." I was a bit shocked. He said, "You were my social barometer! I used to watch to see what kids you hung out with, and I hung out with the same kids because I knew if you were hanging out with them, they weren't assholes!" Wow! I was shocked. I guess I made a difference.

One of my favorite questions to ask my coaching clients is, "What difference does it make that you are on the planet?" God certainly wants us to make a difference in our own lives, yet He also wants us to affect others. The Lord wants us to love Him...He wants us to have hope in ourselves as a result of our relationship with Him...and He wants us to reflect His love to others. Do you make a difference to others?

In today's lesson, Paul continues teaching the first-century Corinthian believers about the importance of using their spiritual gifts to have a positive impact on others.

*SONG INTRODUCTION*

Fear is not a part of the Christian Way of Living. Why? What does the child of a King have to fear? What does one who is in the palm of the Lord's righteous right hand at all times have to fear? What does a person who shares in the inheritance of the Lord Jesus Christ have to fear? Obviously, the answer is nothing. God wants us to rest in His love. Hebrews, Chapter 4, Verse 1 warns...

**HEBREWS 4:1**

*Therefore, let us believers in Christ fear, if we fear anything, that while a promise exists of resting in the Lord's care, any one of you may seem to have come short of it.*

God has nothing against us. He wants us to relax...to be at peace...to enjoy the journey He provides for us in this life. Here's Josh Baldwin to encourage us...Lord, we **STAND IN YOUR LOVE!**

**MUSIC AND REFLECTION**

*Be Occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ*  
Enjoy the Singing of His Praises

*STAND IN YOUR LOVE*

*Bethel Music and Josh Baldwin*

<INSERT VERSES HERE>

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**MUSIC AND REFLECTION**

*Be Occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ*  
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**OPENING PRAYER**

*Let us pray...*

We're grateful, Heavenly Father, for the privilege of studying Your absolute truth...the Word of God...

Father, thank you for making our lives tough at times...thank you for adversity and tribulation...thanks for taking us to the spiritual gymnasium for a spiritual workout...thank you for preparing us in advance for all the challenges we face...thank you for the distribution of spiritual gifts each of us can use to benefit each other...and thank you for our congregation...for providing people designed by You to build us up...

Father, let Your will be done in our lives...open our spiritual eyes so we can see Your hand at work in all of our circumstances...show us how to reach others You place in our lives so we can lead them to a relationship with Your Son...our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...one person at a time...and show us how to lead believers in Christ to the study of Your Word...

...we ask this through the power of God the Holy Spirit...in Christ's name...Amen.

**TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON**

**God Wants You to Have a Positive Impact on Others**

We continue our study of First Corinthians with a verse-by-verse look at Chapter 14, Verses 1 to 19, a section we introduced last week. You'll remember that Chloe's people have asked the apostle Paul to address the problem of the self-proclaimed "spiritual elite" in the Corinthian church who are lording their spiritual gift of tongues over the others in the congregation, acting as if their spiritual gift is more special than the spiritual gifts of others.

Much of Paul's teaching in First Corinthians has been directed to individuals in the church. It's certainly important for us, as believers in Christ, to think about how we're running our lives. So, when we hear a Bible lesson, our first thought might easily be, "How does this lesson apply to me and to my life?" Paul thinks it is equally important for us to think about the effect our conduct has on others, both in the congregation in a public forum, and in the world. What

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difference does it make that you are on the planet? More specifically, Paul wonders what difference using your spiritual gift makes to the congregation of which you are part.

This part of Paul’s message addresses the use of the spiritual gift of tongues in a public worship service. If you’ve ever been to a Pentecostal Church, or if you’ve heard about what goes on there, you know that on any given Sunday you might see someone who is considered “very spiritual” by others in the congregation go into an ecstatic display of what they call the spiritual gift of tongues.

At the time of Paul’s writing this letter, the completed Canon of Scripture did not exist. There was no Bible. There were letters like First Corinthians being shuttled to and read to churches throughout the world. In every congregation, there were speaking spiritual gifts in play, like the spiritual gift of tongues and the spiritual gift of prophecy. The people who had these gifts in a congregation would use them for the benefit of others in the congregation so that the others in the congregation could get a message from God.

In this part of the entire passage, First Corinthians, Chapters 12 to 14, Paul is addressing uninterpreted tongues in a public forum. Paul thinks spiritual gifts are not to be lorded over others as special. Instead, they should be used with unconditional love for the benefit of those the spiritual gifts are intended to serve.

So, you’ll notice three teaching messages in this section of the passage. In First Corinthians, Chapter 14, Verses 1 to 5, the apostle Paul teaches the Corinthian believers about the importance of using spiritual gifts to edify others in the congregation. In Verses 6 to 12, the apostle Paul teaches the Corinthian believers about the importance of the spiritual gifts, when used, being understandable to those being edified by the gifts. Paul concludes this section in Verses 13 to 19 where he teaches the Corinthian believers about some of the important aspects of public worship.

Let's begin with the first message. In essence, Paul asks, is your spiritual gift building others up or tearing them down? Is your spiritual gift being used to edify the whole group, or is your spiritual gift being used for "elitism," making others feel inferior, causing divisions and rivalries? First Corinthians, Chapter 14, Verse 1...

**FIRST CORINTHIANS 14:1**

*Keep on pursuing unconditional love...and if (3) earnestly you are zealous for spiritual gifts (maybe you are and maybe you aren't...you have a choice... you should be zealous for ALL of the spiritual gifts, not just the glamorous speaking ones)...especially be zealous for the best gift...the gift of prophecy.*

Paul starts by shaking up the people who are flaunting their spiritual gift of tongues. We often have new people come into Barah Ministries. What if I started going into a display of tongues?

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What would they think? What would they get out of it? I think we know the answer. It would turn them off to church, and it would turn them off to God, and it would confirm why they should stay at home on Sundays to eat cinnamon rolls, listen to Kenny Rankin music, and read the Arizona Republic. Paul continues...

**FIRST CORINTHIANS 14:2**

*For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men, but he speaks directly to God...for no one (on the outside) understands what he is speaking...but in his spirit (on the inside), he speaks mysteries.*

When the gift of tongues was an active spiritual gift (by the way, it no longer is), the person with the spiritual gift used the gift for direct communication with God for prayer and praise. The spiritual gift of tongues required another person in the congregation who had the spiritual gift of interpretation of tongues to make God's message clear to the congregation. Paul contrasts the spiritual gift of tongues with the spiritual gift of prophecy...

**FIRST CORINTHIANS 14:3**

*But one who prophesies speaks (not to God, but directly) to men for (their) edification and exhortation and consolation.*

Messages from God serve a series of purposes. Some messages are for edification...to build others up. Some messages are for consolation...to help when others are grieving or suffering. Some messages are for exhortation. We have several members within Barah Ministries who are great at exhortation, messages for those who need a push to get unstuck from stinkin' thinkin'! Some messages are for assurance, especially helpful messages when we are doubtful or confused. Some messages are for strengthening when we feel powerless and weak. We need each other! While the gift of tongues was important at the time, Paul contends the gift of prophecy was even more valuable. Why?

**FIRST CORINTHIANS 14:4**

*One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself...but one who prophesies edifies the church.* What's better...edifying self or edifying others? Paul contends that edifying others is better. Someone with the gift of prophecy, rather than turning people off to church and to God, may send the exact message that helps an unbeliever repent so that they change their minds about having a relationship with the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This was a huge concern of the apostle Paul...how spiritual gifts affect others. Is that a concern of yours?

**FIRST CORINTHIANS 14:5**

*Now I (Paul) wish that you all spoke in tongues...but even more, I wish that you would prophesy...and greater is one who prophesies than one who speaks in tongues...unless the one who speaks in tongues also interprets the tongues so the church may receive edification.*

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Paul’s message was simple in the first five verses...our spiritual gifts should be used to build others up rather than being used to tear others down. We must be sensitive to our effect on others. When we return from the break, we’ll take the offering, and then we’ll see what Paul has to say about other critical aspects of public worship.

**FIVE MINUTE BREAK**

*NOBODY*

*Casting Crowns*

**TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON**

**God Wants You to Have a Positive Impact on Others**

Again, I ask, “What difference does it make that you are on the planet?” To God, you make a lot of difference because He put you on earth to make a difference in the lives of everyone you meet, one person at a time. By giving, you make a difference. You impact the lives of people you will never meet. Your giving allows us to reach thousands of people around the world through the miracle of the internet...people we don’t hear from who are nonetheless grateful! Thank you so much for making Barah Ministries possible and for your continued support of this ministry and everyone it touches. Let’s welcome up Deacon Denny Goodall with one of his always inspiring offering messages.

**THE OFFERING**

Deacon Denny Goodall

**OFFERING VERSE**

FIRST PETER 4:8

*Above all, keep on loving each other deeply and unconditionally...because unconditional love covers a multitude of sins (as we overlook the faults of others).*

**OFFERING SONG**

*THERE IS NONE LIKE YOU*

*Don Moen*

**TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON**

**God Wants You to Have a Positive Impact on Others**

Welcome back! Those who criticize Pentecostalism say that it embraces emotionalism and rejects logic. If that’s true, it easily turns off those people who have emotions but are not comfortable displaying them, and especially in a public forum. One of the things I love about Barah Ministries is that we have people who are comfortable with a public display of emotion.

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Many of us came from a discipline, Systematic Theology, that completely rejected emotion in any form in a worship service, and overemphasized logic as the bedrock of Christianity. The truth? Great biblical messages have both logic AND emotion. More importantly, great biblical messages are easy to understand. In First Corinthians, Chapter 14, beginning at Verse 6, Paul introduces a bit of logic as he looks at the importance of the source of our spiritual gifts...

**FIRST CORINTHIANS 14:6**

*But now, brethren...if (3) I (Paul) come to you speaking in tongues (maybe I will and maybe I won't)...what will I profit you unless I speak to you either by way of revelation or by way of knowledge or by way of prophecy or by way of teaching?*

Ecstatic and emotional babbling in tongues that are not understandable to everyone does not edify, encourage or console. At the time, the revelation of the gospel message came directly from God to the person with the spiritual gift of prophecy. Spiritual knowledge for teaching came directly from God to the person with the spiritual gift of prophecy. God powers the spiritual gifts. Therefore, when we use spiritual gifts, God expects us to use them with unconditional love as the foundation, to build others up. For messages to build others up they have to be understandable. Babbling is not understandable. Paul provides an analogy...

**FIRST CORINTHIANS 14:7**

*Even lifeless things, like flutes or harps, in producing a sound, if they do not produce a distinction in the tones (clear intelligible music)...how will it be known what is played on the flute or on the harp?*

Parents know what I'm talking about. Have you ever had to go to a concert when your kids were learning to play an instrument in grammar school?

**FIRST CORINTHIANS 14:8**

*Or if the bugle (calling soldiers to war) produces an indistinct (unrecognizable) sound...who will prepare himself for battle?*

No one...of course! This calls to mind "Reveille," a military bugle call used to wake military personnel at sunrise. Imagine if the buglers music was not recognizable! We sure wouldn't want our soldiers sleeping in!

**FIRST CORINTHIANS 14:9**

*So you, unless you utter by the tongue speech that is clear, how will it be known (by the hearers) what is (being) spoken? For you will be speaking into the air (you'll be incoherent).*

**FIRST CORINTHIANS 14:10**



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*There are, perhaps, a great many kinds of languages in the world, and no kind is without meaning.*

FIRST CORINTHIANS 14:11

*If then I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be to the one who speaks a barbarian, and the one who speaks will be a barbarian to me.*

To the Greeks, a person whose speech was unintelligible, a person who spoke a different language, was a barbarian. To the Greeks, it sounded like people with a foreign tongue were saying bar-bar-bar-bar. Thus, they called them barbarians. <CHINESE LANGUAGE STORY>

Paul summarizes...if hearers can't understand a message, the message has no value. Tongues that are not understandable have no value. Prophecy on the other hand was very valuable.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 14:12

*So, since you (Corinthian believers) are zealous for "special" spiritual gifts...seek to abound for the (gifts that provide) edification of the church.*

Paul concludes the message of the section...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 14:13

*Therefore, let the one who speaks in a tongue pray that he may also interpret.*

FIRST CORINTHIANS 14:14

*For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit (in the inner man) prays...but my mind is unfruitful.*

FIRST CORINTHIANS 14:15

*What is the outcome then? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also...I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also.*

FIRST CORINTHIANS 14:16

*Otherwise, if you bless in the spirit only, how will the one who fills the place of the ungifted say the "Amen" at your giving of thanks, since he does not know what you are saying?*

FIRST CORINTHIANS 14:17

*For you are giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not edified.*

FIRST CORINTHIANS 14:18

*I thank God, I speak in tongues more than you all...*

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FIRST CORINTHIANS 14:19

*...however, in the church I desire to speak five words with my mind so that I may instruct others also, rather than ten thousand words in a tongue.*

Some people are impressed with emotional babbling. Some people are impressed with intellectual confusion and complication. I can remember back in my Systematic Theology days how people would subtly put me down when I taught. “Your messages are so simple.” Well, they weren’t my messages! They were God’s messages. One of the things I’ve always known as a teacher is when students don’t understand what you’re saying, you’re not a very good teacher. Yet there are a lot of students who don’t feel that way. They feel more intellectual if they can babble things that others don’t understand. <DIVINE DYNASPHERE> Most of the time they don’t even understand what they are saying.

What difference does it make that you’re on the planet? If you’re using your spiritual gift for edification...you make a lot of difference! If you’re using your spiritual gift to call attention to yourself, you probably don’t make much difference at all. Others or self...what’s your choice?

Remember this...God the Holy Spirit is not an energy force. He is a Person and He is Deity, every bit as powerful as God the Father and God the Son. Attributing an ecstatic, babbling experience to Him is blasphemy. God the Holy Spirit inspired those with the gift of prophecy to communicate a message in a public forum. God the Holy Spirit inspired those with the gift of tongues to pray and to praise God in the spirit of their minds for the amazing spiritual message. God the Holy Spirit provided interpreters to translate the message of the tongues. God is the source of our spiritual gifts...God is the power behind our spiritual gifts, and He wants us to use them in unconditional love for the benefit of each other. Don’t forget how important it is that you give your gift to others.

**GOD WANTS YOU!**

Make the Most Important Decision of Your Life

The Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Creator of the heavens, the earth, and YOU, loves you unconditionally and wants the best for you. So here is a question that demands reflection...are you a sinner or a saint?

According to the Bible, all of us come to earth as sinners. Romans, Chapter 3, Verse 23 says...

ROMANS 3:23

*...all creatures have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...*

Romans, Chapter 3, Verse 10...

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ROMANS 3:10

*...it is written, “There is no creature who is righteous, not even one...”*

Unfortunately, being a sinner has a penalty. Romans, Chapter 6, Verse 23...

ROMANS 6:23

*For the payment earned for being a sinner is both spiritual death and physical death...*

Being a sinner is bad news, especially if you die as a sinner. Revelation, Chapter 20, Verse 15...

REVELATION 20:15

*And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life (at the Great White Throne Judgment of unbelievers) ... and that will be true for all who are there...he was thrown into the Lake of Fire.*

You remain a sinner if you die before you accept a relationship with the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The Bible is a guide for sinners, and it contains good news! If you’re a sinner (an unbeliever) and you’re still breathing, you can choose to become a saint (a believer in Christ)! The Sovereign God of the Universe, the Lord Jesus Christ and His Father have special plans for sinners... Romans, Chapter 5, Verse 8...

ROMANS 5:8

*But God the Father demonstrates His own unconditional love toward all mankind...in that while we were sinners (while we were unrighteous, ungodly, unbelievers) ... Christ died (a sacrificial death) for us.*

John, Chapter 3, Verse 16 says...

JOHN 3:16

*“For God the Father loved the world unconditionally...and He loved the world so much...that He gave His uniquely born Son (the God-man...the Lord Jesus Christ...100% God and 100% man in one Person...to be crucified on a Cross) ... so that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish...instead he shall have the resurrection life.”*

The Lord Jesus Christ has His arms open wide, right this minute, waiting to welcome sinners into His kingdom. John, Chapter 6, Verse 37...

JOHN 6:37b

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*...and the ones who come to (believe in) Me...I (the Lord Jesus Christ) will certainly not cast out (into the outer darkness...the Lake of Fire).*

In fact, you don't even have to look for God because in His plan he looks for you! Luke, Chapter 15, Verses 4 to 7...

LUKE 15:4

*“What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine sheep in the open pasture and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?”*

LUKE 15: 5

*“When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing.”*

LUKE 15:6

*“And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!’”*

LUKE 15:7

*“I (the Lord Jesus Christ) tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons (saints) who need no repentance.”*

There are a few things you need to know if you want to be transformed from sinner to saint. First, you can't work to be saved. God does the work for you! Titus, Chapter 3, Verse 5...

TITUS 3:5

*The Lord Jesus Christ saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in self-righteousness, but according to His mercy...by the washing of regeneration and through renewing by God the Holy Spirit...*

Second, to be a saint instead of a sinner, you need to have a change of mind...the Bible calls this repentance...and it has nothing to do with your sins as many legalists claim. Repent means to change your mind about your desire to have a relationship with Jesus Christ...moving from having no desire, to having an immediate desire to have a relationship with Him... Acts, Chapter 17, Verses 30 and 31...

ACTS 17:30

*“Therefore, having overlooked the times of your ignorance, God the Father is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent...”*

ACTS 17:31

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*“...because God the Father has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through the God-Man Jesus Christ...whom the Father has appointed (for the judging), having furnished proof that Jesus is God to all men by raising Jesus Christ from the dead.”*

Finally, you need to acknowledge the truths in First Corinthians, Chapter 15, Verses 3 and 4...

**FIRST CORINTHIANS 15:3**

*For I (Paul) delivered to you as of first importance the gospel message I also received ... that it was Jesus Christ who died for our sins according to the Scriptures...*

**FIRST CORINTHIANS 15:4**

*...and that He was buried...and that He was raised from the dead on the third day...according to the Scriptures...*

So how can you move from sinner to saint? John, Chapter 1, Verse 12...

**JOHN 1:12**

*But whosoever received Him (by requesting a relationship with Him), to them the Lord Jesus Christ gave the right to become children of God the Father, even to those who believe in Jesus Christ's name...*

Acts, Chapter 16, Verse 31...

**ACTS 16:31**

*“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and everyone in your household who also believes.”*

But heed the warning in John, Chapter 3, Verse 36...

**JOHN 3:36**

*“He who believes in the Son has eternal life (right at that moment) ... but he who does not obey the command to believe in the Son will not see the resurrection life...instead the wrath of God (the Lake of Fire) abides on him.”*

The good news is this...Romans, Chapter 10, Verse 13...

**ROMANS 10:13**

*...whosoever will call on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ will be saved.*

Take a moment out of your busy life and heed the suggestion in Romans, Chapter 10, Verses 9 and 10...

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**ROMANS 10:9**

*...if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord (that He is God) ... and if you believe in your heart that God the Father raised Him from the dead... you will be saved...*

**ROMANS 10:10**

*...for with the heart a person believes...resulting in the imputation of absolute righteousness by God (your admission ticket to heaven) ... and with the mouth a person confesses (admitting faith in Christ alone) resulting in salvation.*

As a reminder, once you have salvation, you CANNOT lose it. An immutable God, who never changes His mind, saves you once and for all time. Hebrews, Chapter 7, Verse 25...

**HEBREWS 7:25**

*Therefore, the Lord Jesus Christ is able also to save forever (through His divine power...omnipotence) those who draw near to God the Father through believing in the Christ, since the Lord Jesus Christ always lives to make intercession for those who draw near.*

In John, Chapter 10, Verse 28, the Lord says...

**JOHN 10:28**

*“...I (the Lord Jesus Christ) give eternal life to believers in Christ, and they will never perish...and no one will snatch them out of My hand.”*

Believe now! There’s no time to waste.

**SONG INTRODUCTION**

As Church Age believers, we enjoy blessings that stagger the imagination. The apostle Peter wanted us to think about and to experience the magnitude of what God has done for us in First Peter, Chapter 2, Verse 9. He lets us know that like the Jewish believers...

**FIRST PETER 2:9**

*...you (Church Age Gentile believers) are a chosen race...a royal priesthood...a holy nation...a people for God’s own possession...so that you may proclaim the excellencies of God the Father who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light...*

Whenever you’re feeling a bit down on yourself, it would be a good idea to ask June Murphy to sing this song to you...WE ARE ROYALTY!

**CLOSING SONG**

**WE ARE ROYALTY**

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*June Murphy*

**CLOSING VERSES**

A Doxology of Praise to Our God

ROMANS 15:5

*Now may the God who gives endurance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another (to think the exact same way...operating in harmony) according to your union with Christ Jesus...*

ROMANS 15:6

*...so that with one accord you believers in Christ may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

ROMANS 15:7

*Therefore, keep on accepting one another...and keep on receiving one another...just as Christ also keeps on accepting us all (in unconditional love)...to the glory of God the Father.*

**CLOSING PRAYER**

*Let us pray...*

Thanks for coming!

Thanks for watching!

Thanks for listening!

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**HOW DOES GOD USE PRAYER AS A REMINDER?**

PSALM 37:4-5

*Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.  
Commit your way to the Lord...trust in Him...and He will do it.*

Prayer reminds us of our dependence on God.

We want to do a lot of things for God, but through prayer God reminds us of all that He is eager to do for us.

Prayer helps us remember that God always keeps His promises.

Through prayer, our debts are credited to God's account.

As a result of prayer, God credits amazing assets to our account, like unconditional love, forgiveness, grace, righteousness, and protection from our enemies.

Nothing happens in the universe without God's permission...even evil...and when evil is at work, we remember that God works all things together for our good.

Prayer is our chance to slam all our cares on God's back.

Prayer reminds us that God considers our problems to be His responsibility.

Prayer is our chance to tell God what we want Him to do.

Prayer is a death to self, and aliveness to God...a full commitment of our ways to Him.



**FIRST CORINTHIANS**  
**Lesson 68–March 7, 2021**