

vengeance on our behalf.”

What adjectives do you use to describe God? Why are they meaningful to you? What descriptions of God do you prefer not to use? Consider these questions and write your response here.

Thursday, July 1

The “R” in our acrostic PRAY stands for Repent or Repentance. Repent in the original languages of our scriptures – Hebrew and Greek – means to turn around. We often mistake repentance as simply telling God about the bad things we’ve done. God already knows all you’ve done!

To repent means that you are willing to turn away from that which separates us from God and to turn back to God. To repent means that we are willing to make some changes in our lives; that we are willing to look at the direction in which our lives are heading and hopefully change that direction. From what do you need to repent? What changes do you want to make in your life? What guidance would seek from God? Prayerfully consider these questions and write your answers here.

Friday, July 2

Read once more Psalm 130. The “A” and “Y” in our PRAY acrostic stand for Ask and Yield. We can ask God for anything but we are counseled in scripture to ask in faith. Ultimately, we must yield to God’s answers to our prayer – remember Go, No and Whoa? It’s often said that God doesn’t always give us what we ask, but always what we need. Remember that prayer is a conversation with God and wherever we are in life, God is within shouting distance – close by. It’s good advice to pray right now and be prepared to hear back from God! Using the acrostic for PRAY, write a brief prayer that reveals the condition of your life right now.

Message Notes – June 27, 2021

*Within Shouting Distance**

- I. Have you ever heard or used the expression "within shouting distance"? It's a phrase that means "fairly _____" or "_____", as in, "I live within shouting distance of my parents."
 - A. Seriously though, how _____ is shouting distance?
 - B. According to the Guinness World Records, the normal intelligible outdoor range of the male human voice in still air is _____ feet 6.6 inches.
 - C. When people shout, it's to release frustration or _____ others of a danger; often people shout to _____ or threaten others.
- II. Why do we shout to the Lord? Is it because we believe that God is _____?
 - A. God's ability to _____ us is included in the very definition of God.
 - B. What we might find ourselves questioning is whether God chooses to employ the ability to hear us and whether God actually _____ when we pray.
- III. Apparently, some _____ exist when it comes to God listening to us.
 - A. This is about the condition of our lives and souls and how prepared we are to have a _____ with God.
 - B. An acrostic for the word _____.
 1. The “P” stands for _____.
 2. “R” stands for _____.

*Psalm 130

3. "A" stands for _____.

4. "Y" stands for _____.

- IV. In the _____, listening – as it should be in day to day living – is portrayed as going two ways.
- A. The people of God better listen to God but our scripture tells us that over the course of history the people of God have been rather _____ that God listen as well.
 - B. We should take note of Isaiah's instruction:
"_____ the Lord while he may be found, _____ upon him while he is near" (55:6).
 - C. Isaiah surely meant "God is listening right _____, so right _____ is the time to call him."
 - D. So it's good advice to use "_____ _____" to speak to God. And be prepared to hear back

Daily Devotional Guide

The following is a daily devotional and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

Monday, June 28

Read Psalm 130. This lament begins with the words, "Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD. Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!" We often talk about our prayer life as our "quiet time" with God, however, if we're honest there may be times in each of our lives where we would rather cry or shout at God. Perhaps there is room for both these approaches to our God who loves us and offers mercy to us. Can you describe a time when you felt close to God? Can you describe a time when you shouted at God? Consider these

questions and the nature of your prayer times with God. Write your thoughts here.

Tuesday, June 29

Read Psalm 34. Verses 15 and 16 are quoted in I Peter 3:12 in our New Testament. Apparently, some conditions exist when it comes to God listening to us. God's eyes are on the righteous, and God's ears are open to their prayers. We must ask according to God's will and ask in faith. This is about the condition of our lives and souls and how prepared we are to have an honest conversation with God.

None of the conditions imply that the Lord doesn't hear all prayers, but only that we are more receptive to God's response to our prayers – especially prayers spoken in faith. The three answers to prayer that Pastor Jack mentioned in the message are Yes, No and Wait – Go, No and Whoa for those who like words that rhyme. How receptive are you God's leading in your life, perhaps with answer to your prayer that you don't like? Think about these concepts and write your ideas here. Pray for wisdom to understand more deeply your conversations with God.

Wednesday, June 30

Pastor Jack mentioned an acrostic for the word "PRAY." P stands for praise. When we offer words of praise and adoration to God, it's not that God need to hear those words but rather we need to utter them as a means of expressing who God is at any particular time. Using adjectives to describe God (Loving Father/Mother, God of Generosity, Gracious and Merciful God) helps us understand our different needs for God at different times and in different situations. When you want to feel God's loving gentleness, you may not want to address God as "just, seeking