



Tonight after 5pm Worship

40 Days of Prayer



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October 17-November 25

Reflections on Prayer



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A Place to Find Strength



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God has made great promises
about prayer!



And yet we find that prayer has
even more blessings, in addition to
what we ask for...

Today's Passage:

2 Corinthians 12:7-10



2 Corinthians 12:7-10

⁷ Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself!

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

⁸ Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

⁹ And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

¹⁰ Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

We don't know what Paul's
“thorn” was,
but it was from Satan,



2 Corinthians 12:7-10

⁷ Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself!

We don't know what Paul's
“thorn” was,
but it was from Satan,
and in some way it made him weaker.



Paul saw that spiritual good can
come out of suffering.



2 Corinthians 12:7

⁷ Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself!

2 Corinthians 12:9

⁹ And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

Learning from Paul's Struggles



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1) Paul was not ashamed to admit
he had struggles.

Learning from Paul's Struggles



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2) Bringing his struggles to God strengthened Paul's perspective.

2 Corinthians 12:10

¹⁰ Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

Learning from Paul's Struggles



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3) Paul learned to be proud of how God could work through his weakness.

2 Corinthians 12:9

⁹ And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

Japanese Kintsugi



Japanese Kintsugi



Final Thoughts



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Passage to Know: James 5:13

James 5:13

¹³ Is anyone among
you suffering? *Then* he must pray. ...

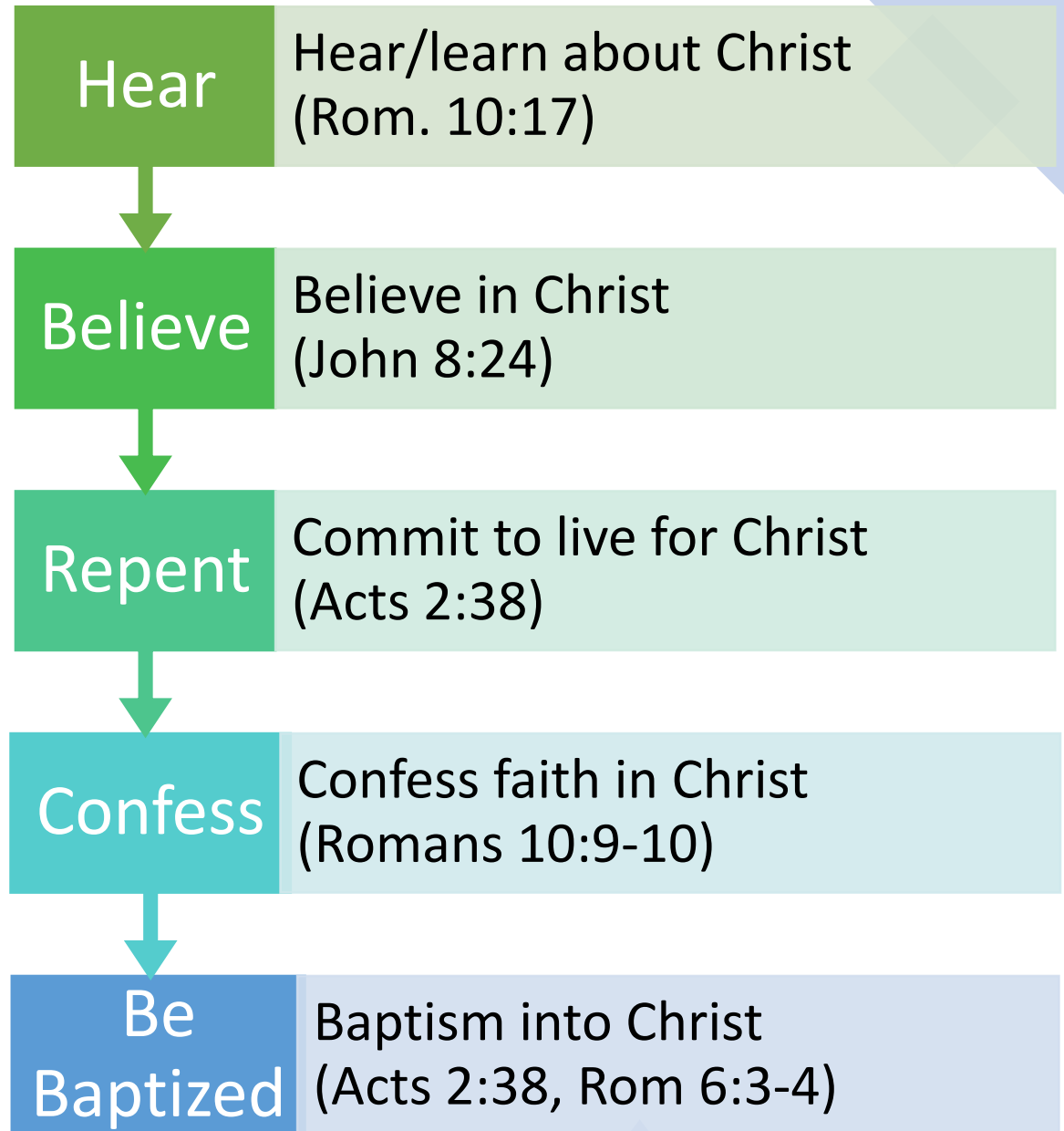
Final Thoughts



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Prayer is a place of strength...

What Must I Do To Be Saved?



James 5:16

¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.