

**NEXT STEPS**      Series: "Faithful God"      Message title: "Please, Pay Attention!" **6/16/24**

Next Steps are designed to be used in your small group settings. Need a group? Let us help! *Today's scripture lesson comes from Psalm 5:1-8. It is not written here due to length. Please read the entire passage prior to completing this Next Steps*

Happy Father's Day! We are thankful for our earthly fathers that had guided us along the way. Today's message title is "Please, pay attention!" Thinking back to your childhood, was that a phrase that your father would have said to you? Or, would you have more likely said those words to your father? Don't be so quick to answer this one. Really think about it. Why would he have said it to you? What was going on? Why would you have said it to him? The way we were raised truly does have a bearing on how we live our lives. Share your thoughts.

Read Psalm 5:1-8. This was written as a morning prayer. It was a great prayer then and it is a wonderful prayer now. Notice how the author is directing his prayer to God. He is not necessarily trying to direct God. How would your morning prayer compare to this model?

Let's look at one of the most basic elements of this prayer. Remember, it is a morning prayer. Why would it be important to pray this or any prayer in the morning? How might it change the direction of your day? Is morning prayer part of your daily routine? How do you start your day?

Notice how the author describes and identifies with God. Today's scripture reading came from The Message which is a more contemporary translation. Read the passage in a more traditional version. How is God described? How would you describe God in your prayer?

In The Message, the individual makes it clear that he is an invited guest. He is not intruding on God's turf. Is that your approach to God when you pray? What makes people timid about approaching God? What allows people to approach God in a more confident manner? Do your sins or shortcomings hinder your boldness? Do you (or others) tie their ability to come close to God based on how good they have been (works)? Remember, we are justified through faith. How would your prayer life change if you fully embraced that you have been cloaked with the righteousness of Jesus Christ? Take some time now to give it a try! Need a little extra encouragement? Read Galatians 2:15-21. Share your experience with your group.

We are not called to live out this life in isolation. When you feel like you aren't being heard, take those cares to spiritual brothers and sisters. Come together and share those concerns with God. Look for others that might be struggling on their faith journey and reach out. Who deserves to join you on this journey? When will you ask? Remember, we have gathered in worship; now it is time to go and be the church.

***"Living intentionally in a Christlike manner to bring glory to God"***  
**the Church**