

FOCUSED LIVING PRAYER Feb - March 2022

David Andes

Early in our (David's) marriage, my bride spent what I thought was an enormous amount of money (\$70) on some fireplace tools at a craft fair. When I asked, "You did what?" here's what she said, "***The man said that these tools are so well made that we will be passing them down to our grandkids.***" Even though we were about five years away from becoming parents, she had me at "grandkids." I got a set of custom-made high value tools. Great!

Ironically, we haven't had a wood burning fireplace for 20 years, so these world class tools sit in my attic... awaiting, I guess, my future grandchild's first birthday?!

Here's the thing: When I look at these rod iron fireplace tools, they don't look like much. And that's how some of us feel about ourselves. We don't look like much. We don't feel like we have a lot to offer...especially compared to someone else.

The problem is that we don't **view ourselves as God views** us - a valuable tool custom-made by THE Master Craftsman to do good works.

For we are His **workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus **for good works**, which God prepared beforehand so that we would **walk in them**. Ephesians 2:10

The word "workmanship" points to the fact that our Creator God custom-made what had not existed before. In Christ, we are one-of-a-kind, high quality, valuable tools. And a tool is only useful when it is in someone's hand...being used.

So, as we get traction in this new year of 2022, let's purpose to view ourselves as God views us – saved entirely by grace, indwelt by His Spirit, and custom-made into a world class tool. Put yourself in a position to let God **use you** to bless the people in your little section of the world. And if you've been sidelined in the attic for a season, it's time to come out and jump into your Father's hands and be the tool of blessing He created you to be. "*Lord, who do You want to bless through me today?*"

Ministry Prayer Requests

Grip discipleship - 72 men have just started their 100-day Discipleship Journey. Pray that God would grip each man's heart and that there would be obvious fruit that impacts their families.

Core retreat - On March 11th -13th the Focused Living board will retreat as couples. Pray that the core meeting will be Spirit lead and the fellowship will be rich.

Men's forums - Our men's forums continue to bring God's Word to bear in men's daily lives. This spring we are finishing a three-year theme called "Making of a Man". Please join us in praying that many men will take advantage by inviting their friends to the forums.



Perry Bowers Family Prayer

Perry and Janet: Praise for God's presence throughout and healing from Covid early February for Perry & Janet. Prayers for return to full health.

Marc & Megan (Bowers) Hunsaker: Grace, strength and wisdom for the many parenting opportunities with Logan (8 yr old boy) and Hannah (11 yr old girl). Stamina in their jobs and flourishing in their marriage.

Eddie & Joy (Bowers) Centurion: Grace and wisdom as Eddie's mom from Paraguay moves in to live with Joy & Eddie. This wonderful opportunity requires more space for 7 people so pray for God's provision of another home and probably transition to new neighborhood and schools for the grandchildren ages 16 down to 9. Stamina in their jobs, marriage and parenting.

David Andes Family Prayer

Cameron's successfully completed his first semester at Clemson University. Pray that he would apply himself fully this second semester and intersect with some Christian community in college.

Thankful for a variety of opportunities for Austin to engage in during the week, including new voice lessons. Pray for wisdom and patience for us as we help him become more independent in everyday living.

Katherine is thankful for flexibility in her schedule. Pray that her heart would be soft to serve where Jesus leads.

Pray that David would continue to experience and model the Focused Life this Spring.

German Wright Family Prayer

Prayers for the healing power of God to prevail over some recent health challenges for Sandra and for others for whom we intercede!

Wisdom, provision, and favor on some repairs and maintenance in the home presenting financial challenges.

Wisdom, breakthrough and growth in ministry support.

Karl Reed Family Prayer

Please continue to pray for us as we parent our children. We need wisdom, patience, and lots of grace. Pray that our hearts remain tethered to our Heavenly Father as He is our true source of strength.

Pray for protection for our children, both physically and spiritually, as they continue to grow and develop through these influential years.