Prayer – First Response or Last Resort Series
Message # 3: Getting Serious About Praying For Your Problems and
Difficult Decisions
Core Group Discussion Guide
September 23, 2018

Message Overview:
• One of the **CONDITIONS** for answered prayer is – **you have to have FAITH**.
• **BUT** sometimes the **situation is so big** and **the problem is so overwhelming** it's hard to have faith.
• The **QUESTION** is – **HOW do you get faith in a faithless situation?**
• **Romans 10:17** (NASB)
  ¹⁷ So **faith** comes from **hearing**, and **hearing** by the **word** of Christ.
• **"word"** = *rhema* (Greek) – a special kind of "word" of God.
• God speaks to people in **TWO WAYS** (God's "word" = *logos* or *rhema*)
  (1) **UNIVERSALLY** – to **EVERYBODY** (logos).
  (2) **PERSONALLY** – to **INDIVIDUAL PEOPLE** through **SPECIFIC MESSAGES** for **SPECIFIC SITUATIONS** at **SPECIFIC TIMES** (rhema).

Text:
Romans 10:17; John 14:14; Jeremiah 33:3; John 14:26; John 16:13; John 15:17; Jonah 2

Questions for Discussion:
• **OPEN IT –**
  1. When you come to God asking for help – **what** typically do you say?
• **EXPLORE IT –**
  So that we might understand better how to pray about our problems and difficult situations, let's look at the prayer of Jonah (Read – Jonah 2) and use the following questions as a guide in praying through your problems.
  1. Why does Jonah need help?
  2. What caused the problem (personal or corporate sin; emotional, spiritual or political enemies)?
  3. How does Jonah in prayer approach the Lord with his problems?
  4. Do you see any movement or development in Jonah's prayer?
  5. What facts about God and Jonah's relationship with God does Jonah count on as he prays?
  6. Does Jonah see any indication that his prayer will be answered? When? How?
  7. List two or three specific principles you can incorporate into your own prayer life from studying Jonah's prayer.

• **APPLY IT –**
  1. What troubling problem or fear do you need to turn over to God?
  2. What promises of God can help you deal with the difficult circumstances of your life?