

EMPOWERED BY PRAYER

Pastor Tony Shen

Del Rey Church

2016 Month of Prayer

I. Introduction: Review the Month of Prayer

II. Praying to Be Empowered for Participation

"Faithful ministry requires prayer intercessory"

A. Plentiful prayers by Paul (Phil. 1:3-4)

B. "Participation in the gospel" (1:5-6)

C. "Partakers of grace" (1:7-8)

D. "Approve the things that are excellent" (1:9-11)

III. Conclusion

A. Pray for your fellow ministers

Paul asks for prayer:

- 1 Thes. 5:17-18, 25
- 2 Thes. 3:1
- Eph. 6:19

B. Pray for boldness to share the gospel

- Rom. 1:16
- Acts 4:12
- 2 Cor. 3:12
- 1 Thes. 2:2
- 1 Phil 1:19-20
- Eph. 3:8-13
- 2 Tim. 1:7-8,12

C. Participate in the gospel

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

Reflective Questions for You and Your Small Group

1. What have you learned during our church's Month of Prayer? How did it impact you? Are you praying more or differently? What did you learn from Sunday's sermon? What will stick with you?

2. Read the below verses in which Paul writes about his prayers, and the surrounding verses. What is the outcome he is praying for the churches? How are you personally striving toward these outcomes?

1 Thes 1:2

1 Tim 2:1-4

1 Thes 2:13

2 Tim 1:3,7-8,12

1 Thes 3:9-10

Eph. 1:16,18

2 Thes 1:3

Eph. 3:14

2 Thes 1:11

Eph. 6:18-20

1 Tim 1:12

Col. 1:3,9

3. How can you lovingly and generously participate in the gospel? Do you find yourself more on the fringe than purposely working together with others for the mission of God to reach the lost and make disciples in our local communities?

4. Read Martin Luther King Jr.'s *Letter from a Birmingham Jail* (the text can be found online). What similarities does it have with Paul's prison epistles? What differences? How explicit is the gospel of Jesus Christ in Dr. King's letter? How is the gospel the only lasting hope for racial reconciliation?