

How to Kill Persistent Sin – Supercharged Praying

Hebrews 4:14-16 – *Message Discussion Guide*

Connect

- We have all heard some unusual public prayers through the years. What is one of the oddest public prayers you have ever heard? How are public prayers different from personal prayers?

Discover

- Which statement or experience stood out to you from the worship service?
- Read Hebrews 4:13-15.
 - How do verses 14 and 15 provide comfort and peace following the very scary thought communicated in verse 13?
 - How is Jesus able to sympathize with our weaknesses?
 - How was Jesus' temptation similar to ours? How was it different?
 - How does it comfort or strengthen us to go to Christ knowing he has been tempted in every way as we are tempted, yet without sin?
- Read Hebrews 4:16 and James 4:8.
 - According to both of these verses, what does God do when we approach or draw near to him?
 - What did the author of Hebrews mean when he wrote, "throne of grace?" How might that have been a surprising characterization of a "throne" in biblical times?
 - What would be the opposite of coming "boldly" before the throne? In your own words, how should someone come before the throne of God?
- Read Psalm 100:4 and Psalm 139:23-24.
 - What elements does Psalm 100:4 suggest should always be included in our prayer time? What are some ways we can be more consistent to always include those elements?
 - What elements does Psalm 139:23-24 suggest should always be included in our prayer time? What are some ways we can be more consistent to always include those elements?
 - What other elements should we regularly include in our prayer time?
- Read Luke 11:5-8 and Luke 18:1-8.
 - What does the Luke 11 passage teach us about prayer?
 - This parable (Luke 11:5-8) addresses one common objection people often have to excuse their lack of consistent prayer. What is that common objection?
 - What does the Luke 18 passage teach us about prayer?
 - Why do people so often fail to be consistent in prayer? What does Luke 18:1-8 say to those people?

Respond

- How does the Holy Spirit use the habit of consistent prayer to help us overcome persistent sins?
- Why do you think the people with the most consistent prayer lives tend to journal their prayers in the same sense as David and Jeremiah? What do you think is the connection between consistent prayer lives and journaling? How could you use journaling to supercharge your prayer life?

Bonus for Thinkers

- What does Hebrews 4:15 mean when it calls Jesus our high priest? What qualifies him as such? What are the duties of a high priest? Why do we need a high priest?

First Baptist Nacogdoches Bible Reading Plan

Day	Scripture
Monday (11/4)	Luke 11:5-8, 18:1-8
Tuesday (11/5)	John 12:27-50
Wednesday (11/6)	John 13:1-20
Thursday (11/7)	John 13:21-38
Friday (11/8)	John 14:1-31

Daily Devotion Questions

Monday (11/4) — Luke 11:5-8, 18:1-8

- Review the “Respond” questions on the reverse side of this devotion guide.

Tuesday (11/5) — John 12:27-50

- In 12:27, Jesus is talking about how he is dreading the crucifixion. But he says the more important thing is not his troubled heart, but it is the purpose for which he has come. How about us? Is there something you dread doing but you know it is what the Lord has directed you to do? Write it down. Ask for wisdom and courage.
- Notice what Jesus does not pray for in 12:27. He does not ask the Father to rescue him from the going to the cross! Notice that in all of Jesus’ prayers about the cross he only asks for two things: (1) He would have the strength to do the Father’s will. (2) The Father’s name would be glorified (12:27). Think about some of the most difficult things in your life today or in your future. How should you pray about those things?
- In 12:42, we learn that many people believed in Jesus but kept their beliefs secret. According to 12:43, why did they keep it secret? Write that down. Pray and ask the Lord to show you areas in your life where you may be guilty of the same thing.

Wednesday (11/6) — John 13:1-20

- What verse in today’s Bible reading most stood out to you? What lesson has the Lord taught you in your Bible reading today?
- Jesus did the unexpected in 13:4-5. He washed the disciple’s feet. This is a model for the kind of love and service we should show to those around us (13:14). Ask the Lord to give you some guidance and then write down names and some ways you could go above and beyond and serve each of these people this week:
 - Your family or someone in your family...
 - A close friend...
 - A neighbor...
 - Someone at work/school...
 - Someone you are not close to, someone it is hard to love...

Thursday (11/7) — John 13:21-38

- None of us have betrayed Jesus in the manner Judas betrayed him, but we have all let him down and refused to boldly stand for him. Spend a moment and think of a recent time you have failed to stand with Jesus and his Word. Write that down as a confession. Ask for help for more boldness and consistency.
- In 13:34, Jesus says we are to love others just like he loved us. Think about how he loved us. Write down some ways you can model Jesus’ love as you love others.
- In 13:37-38, Peter made a bold promise about his future commitment to the Lord, but he failed to count the cost of serving and following the Lord that day. This got him into some trouble. Too often we are boldly making commitments for how we can sacrifice and serve the Lord in the distant future, when the Lord just wants us to commit to serve, obey and follow him today. What are you going to do today to walk with Jesus? Sacrifice for and serve Jesus? Obey Jesus?

Friday (11/8) — John 14:1-31

- Jesus’ promise in 14:2-3 is meant to give us strength and encouragement today. How can knowing that he has “prepared a place for you” help you be strong in your faith today?
- In 14:15, Jesus equates loving him with keeping his commandments. So how could you love him more this week and weekend by better keeping his commandments? Write down a couple of specific ways.
- Jesus says (in 14:27) that the peace he gives is different from the peace the world gives. In what ways do you think it is different? Spend a minute or two thanking the Lord for the peace he has given to you.