

Prayer Triad 8 Compilation

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

Scripture Question: Paul gives thanks for the church in Thessalonica and remembers their work of faith, labor of love and steadfastness of hope. What would you give thanks for about our church?

- We're thankful for fellowship and caring in our church which is demonstrated in various ways. We're welcoming to newcomers.
- We're thankful that the members of this church really care about each other. People need to feel that they belong and are accepted with unconditional love.
- Its determination to exist (it's been here a long time). Our church is in a nice building. Our church building is used by the community for things such as weddings, 4H, some scout functions, some Charter School functions, English lessons for the Spanish speaking community members and a rest stop for the bikers.
- We give thanks for a caring, loving and nurturing congregation.

Question 1: Can you name at least seven people in our congregation who are passionately committed to helping our congregation reach its full kingdom potential?

- Yes
- Yes, when members are engaged in projects they participate in actively or sponsor programs then their enthusiasm is contagious to all of us.
- Yes (names listed on sheet)
- Yes, we can name seven people.
- It's easy to think of seven people from the past that we can describe as passionately committed, but when thinking of our present congregation it's hard to come up with that many that we would consider passionate. We can think of many that we think care, but would not describe them as passionate.
- Yes, and more.
- Yes (names listed on the sheet)
- Yes, in addition to those in this triad, many others in the congregation. There is no shortage of passion and energy among our congregation and of those who are committed to helping our congregation reach its full kingdom potential. There may be varying levels of passion due to individual abilities.

Question 2: How important is it for the church to have enthusiastic members and supporters of what we believe God is calling us to do? How would you rank our enthusiasm on a scale of 1 (low) to 10 (high)?

- Very important. We think our enthusiasm is at a 6.
- Tremendously important. At this time our enthusiasm is at a 4.
- Very important – we're at a 6.
- It is very important to have enthusiastic members and supporters. We would rate our enthusiasm between 7 and 8.

- Very important – if there are none or too few who are enthusiastic supporters then the church will stagnate (one or two enthusiastic people can create enthusiasm in others). We would rate Bethany at 6 or 7.
- Very important – 7.5
- Very important – between 4 and 5
- Very important, obviously. Overall enthusiasm between 6 and 8, but in measuring enthusiasm for evangelism it may be a 2. That is not a criticism, just an observation. Most of us are not clear what evangelism is and how to go about it. We must define what evangelism is and what form of it fits Bethany. It is clear that just helping people in need is a form of evangelism and many in the congregation do that very well. But in doing it, the reason why we care must be conveyed – because we are reflecting the love of Christ who died for our salvation and was resurrected to prove his divinity and to be with God until the establishment on earth of his kingdom – and we must explain how accepting Christ can bring them full and happy lives here and everlasting life with God, inviting them to experience what we know to be true.

Question 3: Do you think we can be successful without committed, passionate people?

- No
- Emphatically no.
- No, it is imperative that we have them to lead and show the way with positive energy.
- No, we can't be successful without committed, passionate people.
- No – there have to be some who are committed and passionate.
- NO WAY!
- No, but how do you define success? Is it a church with a full sanctuary? Is it a small membership of members who love their church and experience and care about their fellow congregational members and the community at large? Or is a successful church a church that extends its hand out to the new generation by trying things that might interest a young group of people – the new type of Sunday School that we tried last summer or by having youth involved in the service.
- Duh, of course not.

Question 4: What really excites you about your church?

- Different things at different times – the meditation and music during communion, singing traditional congregational songs that everyone from anywhere will know and the different musical instruments that are used.
- New programs. Outreach. The fact that we recognize we have problems that we need to address in order to be successful in the future. Our working together in triads to find common ground.
- The outreach programs and our music ministry.
- We are excited that we are trying to improve our church. Most members are involved in the triads and are wanting to understand what our vision for our church is.
- The love felt among the people of the church, the good music, the good sermons and the willingness to help others.
- People, children's programs, new programs (like things the communication committee are trying to do), trying new things such as Movie Night to attract others and for our own

enjoyment, ideas like Game Show Sunday, children's praise choir and the music including the new gospel band.

- The music, message, activities and doing things with others.
- The caring of the people and the willingness to come together for the good of the church as a whole when there is a need. If what we do when we do that is God's will, then we will be a powerful force for God.