



BREAKING THE ICE

Are you a social planner when it comes to your group of friends & family or do you let someone else do all the planning?

What is your favorite skyline? What makes the skyline special to you?

MAIN CONTENT

This week Pastor Kevin started a new series called “Above and Beyond.” God wants us to see above and beyond what is in front of us. To look past our perspective and see from His perspective.

1. What kind of planner are you? Are you last-minute, every-minute-of-the-day-is-accounted-for or something in between?

God wants us to invite Him into our planning and gain His perspective on our lives. When we engage in prayers beyond our daily circumstances and routine, we invite Him to revealing the greater vision of what He has for us.

When we talk to God, we can ask Him for advice and get His perspective on our life. Prayer is simply talking to God and listening to Him.

2. What do your prayers usually center around? Are they about your circumstances, your family, others?

In Ephesians 1:15-22, we see Paul’s prayer for the church of Ephesus.

Have someone take a few moments to read the prayer.

3. What stands out to you in this prayer Paul prays for the church in Ephesus?

One thing we see exemplified in Paul’s prayer is to pray for others. **We gain perspective when we pray for others.** It’s okay to pray for ourselves, we need to be self-aware about what is going on in our lives. But if we aren’t careful, we can move from self-awareness to being self absorbed. One way we can keep

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from being self absorbed is by praying for others and giving thanks to God for them.

Pastor Kevin said, “When you thank God, it gives perspective. You see God as the giver, and the other person as a gift. Not as somebody to be tolerated, but a gift to be celebrated”.

4. How often do you thank God for the people in your life? Which people in your life do you thank God for?

5. Have you ever thanked God for people that are hard to love? If so, what result did you see from that prayer?

When we pray for others, God works in us. He gives us a fresh perspective. An “others minded” perspective that keeps us from being self absorbed.

We gain perspective by knowing God better. Pastor Kevin mentioned a quote by Corrie ten Boom in this week’s message, “Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.” We may not know what our future holds, but we know God has a plan for our future. God wants us to know Him better.

We can know about God or know God. By spending time with God, we get to know Him more deeply. The more time we spend with Him, the more we desire to be more like Him.

6. How well do you feel like you know God? How do you get to know God?

When we have a life with God, we have His spirit with us. The more time we engage with God and the Holy Spirit within us, the more they impart wisdom and revelation to us. Wisdom is the mind of God and thinking God’s thoughts after Him. Wisdom starts with God’s perspective. Revelation is when God shows you something new. Revelation can come at the perfect time, like when you need a fresh look at how scripture applies to your current circumstance.

7. How have you experienced God’s wisdom and revelation about circumstances in your life?

We gain perspective when we see with Spiritual Vision. Spiritual vision is seeing with an eternal perspective. We want people to know the hope of Jesus, the riches of His glorious inheritance (eternity in heaven) and the greatness of His power which is greater than anything this world has to offer.

When we seek God and pray, He can give us the power of perspective. Perspective to think and pray for others, to know Him better and to see with spiritual vision so we can share Him with the rest of the world.

PRAYER

God thank you that your perspective is bigger than my perspective and that you know my future so I don't have to worry about it. Help me look past my perspective and gain yours. Where I am self-absorbed, show me how to move past myself and pray for others. Help me know you more and not just know about you. Give me the spiritual vision so I can tell others about you. Amen.

ACTION STEP

Below are some ideas on how to gain God's perspective. Over the next few weeks, choose some of these practices to engage in as ways to change your perspective to God's perspective.

- + Start a gratitude list - make a list of 10 things or people you are grateful for and write them down.
- + Pray for the people you are thankful for on your list.
- + Get to know God better by reading the Bible. You can start with Ephesians chapters 1 and 3. These are the chapters the Above and Beyond series are based on. They can help us live above and beyond our perspective and look at life from God's perspective.
- + Get to know God by spending time in prayer. We talked about walking and praying in the last sermon. Continue walking and praying to God about things in your life and pray for others.
- + Pray for spiritual vision. Spiritual vision to see others how God sees them and pray for those who need to come to know Him.