

Ridin' High Cowboy Church

**8771 FM 35
Union Valley, TX**

Pastor: Steve Bishop

MISSION STATEMENT

***Ride out and round up the lost cowboys and cowgirls
Everywhere so they can know our Savior, Jesus Christ.***

**For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the
government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be
called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting
Father, The Prince of Peace.**

Isaiah 9:6

December 27, 2015 - *What Do You Want to Learn/To Be Taught This Year?*

What happens in your personal life, your family, your relationships and this church hinges on God's involvement. And we will see today God's involvement depends on how we pray.

Luke 11:1-10

1 One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples. (the interesting thing is they should have been experts. They were Jewish and prayed all the time, but they knew something was different about Jesus...stuff happened when he prayed.) Jesus could have said anything he wanted about prayer, but he chose to say this:

2 He said to them, "When you pray, say: " 'Father, hallowed be your name, (take time to think about who you are talking to and how his name makes mountains shake and oceans roar) ***your kingdom come (Matthew-your will be done on earth as it is in heaven)*** (There is room for only one King in your life and God has to be it)

3 Give us each day our daily bread, (this prayer helps us focus on what we have now, it limits our wanting to today, and there is an emphasis on OUR not MY.)

4 Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. (When you realize how much God has forgiven you of, it will be easier to forgive the people around you). ***And lead us not into temptation"*** (we can find it ourselves) Jesus knew the prayer is not about words, the point is to tell God

he is great, and tell him you're dependent (for food, forgiveness) The Jesus got into the heart of the prayer...

5 Then Jesus said to them, "Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; 6 a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.' 7 And suppose the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' (the disciples know it's a made up story. In a Parable, someone is God and someone is us. The guy asking must be us (prayer) so the guy asleep is God? That doesn't sound like the God we want to pray to. How God must hear our prayers that are so small! **8 I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of our shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.** (The disciples are saying surely God is not like that? Jesus says yes, you asked about prayer and sometimes God wants you to be persistent.)

9 So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. (you be relentless in asking, seeking, knocking. God is not annoyed by this but honored by this.

We have to approach God like a Father and we are his children.

10 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."

God wants to know you are serious. Are you praying like that? Most people don't, most churches don't. Is it any wonder that so little happens in our lives and in our churches?

How about praying for Character this year?

Character: Billions of dollars are spent on improving every area of your life. There are none for improving character. Why, there is no money to be made. If we could send other people there would be a market, but I don't want to go. Your lack of character bothers me more than mine. Accomplishments take priority over character.

Character: the will to do what God says is right no matter what the cost.

Two things you have to agree to:

1. There is a standard of right and wrong outside of us. **2Tim 3:16 All scripture is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,**

2. We have to develop the will to follow the standard. Lack of character will always show in your relationships. Character is the oil of relationships
Marriage: two people made for each other minus character equals destroyed relationship

Proverbs 11:1-4

1 The LORD abhors (abhors – gut wrenching hatred) **dishonest scales** (rock on one side that is always the same weight, silver on the other side).

I like dishonest scales – at work the scales have to be calibrated, and I never change them when they're lighter. We like dishonesty when it benefits us. God can't stand it when someone is dishonest towards someone else.

But accurate weights are his delight. (do you have someone that your face lights up when you see them?) This verse says that God gets excited when he sees the man or woman of character who even if they can get away with it, they do what is right.

2 When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

Everybody wants to be wise ...relationships, finances – we all want to make wise choices.

Humility – Focusing on who God is and who I am, related to God.

3 The integrity of the upright guides them, The number 1 question I get is how do I know what God wants me to do. Focus on your character and God will guide you in the right direction. Men and women of character don't struggle to make decisions. **But the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.**

Lord, give me wisdom to know what is right, and the courage to do what is right.

Start praying this prayer and you will see God show up in areas of your life you never even thought about before.