



# MOUNTAIN STREAM NEWS

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## WHEN YOU PRAY

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR



*Matthew 6:7 (5-14)*  
*"And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words."*

**When you pray, pray for impact – not to impress.**

Prayer is one of the greatest resources of Christians. But prayer is also one of the most misunderstood and misused resources of Christians. Fortunately, Christ provides important guidance in Matthew 6:5-14 about praying effectively.

Christ challenges us not to pray to impress – that is, not to offer insincere prayers designed to garner the admiration of people ... or God.

Unimpactful prayers are frequently public

prayers that are delivered to secure people's attention and adulation (5-6). Christ informs us that the admiration of men is the full and final effect of such prayers. To protect us from this futile praying, He encourages us to develop the habit of private prayer. It is not that public prayer is wrong, but rather that sincere public prayer usually flows easier from those who have developed the discipline of private prayer. The habit of speaking for God's ears only that is honed in solitude is more likely to be unconsciously carried over into occasions of public prayer.

But private prayer can also be unimpactful if it is intended to impress God by its copious and lofty language (7-8). The idea that the power of the prayer lies in its impressive eloquence is an insult to God. As a result, He ignores such prayers.

Prayers designed to impress, therefore, are completely impotent because God is unmoved by our hypocritical eloquence and does not answer them, while any humans we manage to impress cannot answer them.

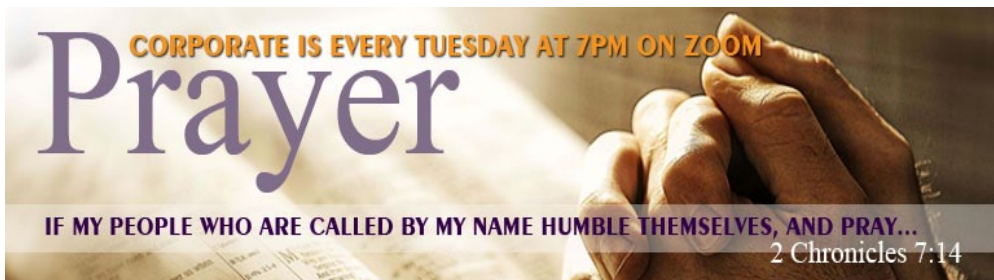
Effective prayer, on the other hand, is prayer that is offered honestly and humbly to God. It is not preoccupied with soaring rhetoric. Rather, it is marked by reverence (9), surrender to God's will (10), and humble dependence on Him (11). It is marked by a consciousness of our indebtedness to God, and the willingness to forgive other's indebtedness to us (12). It is also marked by a passion for holy, victorious living (13). Simply put, effective prayer rises from of a heart and life that is in deep communion with God. God joyfully answers such prayers.

May God help us to develop deep intimacy with Him so that when we pray, we pray for impact – not to impress.

God bless you,

Pastor James

## JOIN THE BATTLE



## WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

<p><b>CORPORATE PRAYER</b> TUE @ 7 PM</p> <p><b>February 23</b></p> <p>Join us via Zoom video</p> <p>Please contact Pastor James for log on information at rcantio@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>MONTHLY EVENING SERVICE</b> EVERY 3RD SUN @ 6 PM</p> <p><b>March 21</b></p> <p>Please contact us by phone (570 856 3310) or email (mountainstreamchurch@gmail.com or rcantio@gmail.com) for login information.</p>	<p><b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b> SUN @ 11 AM</p> <p><b>February 28</b></p> <p>In-person service and livestream.</p> <p>Livestreaming only on Facebook and our church's website.</p>
<p><b>ONLINE GROWTH GROUPS</b> THU &amp; FRI @ 7 PM</p> <p><b>February 25</b> (in-person) &amp; <b>February 26</b> (online)</p> <p>Sign up at the information center or online to join.</p> <p>email: mountainstreamchurch@gmail.com or call for log on details.</p>	<p><b>YOUTH GROUP</b> FRI @ 6:45 PM</p> <p><b>February 26</b></p> <p>Youth meetings are in-person at church.</p>	<p><b>VIRTUAL KIDZONE</b> SUN @ 4 PM</p> <p><b>February 28</b></p> <p>Kidzone is available every Sunday.</p> <p>Contact Candice at candicebrich@gmail.com for log on information.</p>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Virtual Ladies Meeting this Saturday Feb 26th, 10:30 am on Zoom.** Contact Candice for login information if necessary.
- **Explore Mountain Stream classes** for folks interested in becoming members or just finding out more about Mountain Stream continue this Sunday at 10 am on the lower level.
- **Growth Groups** continue. Please sign up at the Information Center or online to attend. Meetings are in-person Thursdays 7 pm at church and Fridays online at 7 pm.
- The **2021 Church Directory** will be published soon, if you need to update your information or want to be included please visit our website, click the **ABOUT** button at the top of the page or use this convenient link.
- **Bible reading plans for 2021** are available at the Information Table and on our website. Pick up a copy or download one today. Also, please read Pastor Jimmie's daily blog on the readings.
- We are excited to have you at our in-person worship at 11 am on Sundays. Please call ahead to 570 856 3310 or email us at mountainstreamchurch@gmail.com to let us know you are coming.
- Please see our webpage for detailed information on in-person gatherings.

### QUICK TIPS

**Two ways to give your offering.** Traditional with a check by mail or through our secured website online giving is now possible. Please remember to hit "SAVE" after you give if you did not set up an account so the church can have a record of who gave for tax purposes. Thank you!