

The Priority of Praise & Thanksgiving

6-Day Devotional from Pastor Bill Geh's Message January 11, 2026

Day 1: P – Prophecy. It's Personal

- **The Message:** We often treat the Bible as a book about other people—Abraham, Isaac, or the Apostles—but Pastor Bill reminds us that the Word is a personal revelation. Just as Jesus' prophecy to build His church in Matthew 16:18 became a living reality in the Book of Acts, God's promises are active and true for your specific life today. When you sit in your "quiet place" to hear Jesus, remember that this living book contains a plan for you that is as real as the one He had for Saul of Tarsus.
- **Scripture:** Matthew 16:18; Acts 9:15-16
- **Reflective Question:** Are you reading your Bible to check off a box, or are you listening for the Master to call your name through His personal revelation?

Day 2: R – Relationship. Not Religion

- **The Message:** Christianity is not a religion of "right answers"; it is a relationship between a Shepherd and His sheep. Jesus calls His sheep by name, and because of that deep connection, the sheep recognize His voice and follow Him. Pastor Bill shared that even a pet, like his cat Max, learns the voice of the one who loves and cares for him. In the same way, we are invited to enjoy the Lord's presence and follow Him because we know Him, not because we are following a set of religious rules.
- **Scripture:** John 10:3-4, 27-30
- **Reflective Question:** Can you distinguish the gentle voice of your Shepherd from the loud "resolutions" and demands of the world?

Day 3: A – Adoption. Ask

- **The Message:** When you accept Jesus, you are fully adopted into God’s family as a son or daughter with full rights to the Kingdom. This "Spirit of adoption" allows us to cry out "Abba, Father"—the equivalent of "Daddy" or "Papa". Because of this, we are encouraged to ask, seek, and knock. Pastor Bill challenges us to ask specifically for the "Helper," the Holy Spirit, to fill us and empower us, just as a child asks a loving father for bread.
- **Scripture:** Romans 8:15-16; Luke 11:9-13
- **Reflective Question:** Are you hesitant to ask God for help because you feel like a servant, or are you ready to "get into the refrigerator" of your Father’s house as a Kingdom kid?

Day 4: I – Identity. In Christ

- **The Message:** Most people identify themselves through "bubbles"—temporary things like careers, sports teams, or cultural roles. However, these bubbles eventually pop. Our true identity is being "in Christ," a phrase used over 90 times in the New Testament to describe our status as a "new creation". When you are founded on the Rock of Jesus, all the old things—the guilt, the shame, and the temporary labels—pass away, and everything becomes new.
- **Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:20
- **Reflective Question:** Which "bubble" have you been using to define your worth lately, and how does your identity in Christ provide a more solid foundation?

Day 5: S – Sovereignty. Supreme

- **The Message:** God is in supreme control of everything, and nothing is out of His reach. Romans 8:28 doesn't say that everything *is* good, but that all things *work together* for good for those who love Him. Pastor Bill told the story of Corrie ten Boom's sister, Betsy, who thanked God for the fleas in their concentration camp barracks. Those fleas kept the guards away, allowing the women to hold Bible studies in safety. God can use even the "fleas" and "bedbugs" of your life for His glory.
- **Scripture:** Psalm 115:3; Romans 8:28
- **Reflective Question:** What current "flea" or irritation in your life can you begin to thank God for, trusting that His sovereignty is at work?

Day 6: E – Evangelize. Enjoy Your Purpose

- **The Message:** We were left on this earth to do more than just exist; we were left here to evangelize and be witnesses. Whether at Walmart, your school, or your neighborhood, you are meant to represent Jesus. Pastor Bill notes that when we are not engaging our spiritual gifts, we feel like something is missing. True joy is found when we let our "bubbles" pop and get on the "rocket" of Jesus' purpose for us. When you follow His call, you will truly enjoy the life He has given you.
- **Scripture:** Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19-20
- **Reflective Question:** Where has God uniquely "left" you today to represent Him, and how can you use your gifts to share the Gospel?
