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## GALATIANS 1:11-24

### Galatians Series

Let's pray together.

[PRAYER] Heavenly Father, we know that you provide the answers for the challenges. Whether those challenges have to do with weight loss or they have to do with fear and anxiety that we're experiencing in our lives we know that you have answers. And so we want to learn how to pray more. We want to pray, not just bring our needs to you, but we want to pray to find out the needs from you. We want to come before you recognizing not that you're going to give us what we want, but that we come before you and ask what do you want us to do, how can we fit into your plans. Lord, we ask that you would teach us how to pray and have that open communication with you regularly so we're continually in this attitude of prayer. We want you to reign in our hearts and reign in our lives.

For those who are here today who don't know you, we ask that this would be an opportunity for you to speak personally into their lives and help them understand what that personal relationship looks like with you so they can have you present inside their own hearts. We ask as we speak to people this afternoon that as we do that you would be honored in our lives and that you would be revealing to people what it means to know you in a very personal way.

Lord, I thank you for Daniel and Kimberly in our earlier prayer time were sharing about how they had opportunities this week unbeknownst to each other to share you with others. We know there's a need out there. We come before you and ask you for peace in our lives. We ask you for strength, we ask you for opportunities to share who you are with others, and we ask you that you would grow this church, that you would empower us with your Spirit and enable us to reach out and share the message that you've given to us with this world. We ask this in Jesus Christ, amen.

Would you please open your Bibles with me to Galatians 1 today. We're going to pick up where we left off last week in Galatians. Over the next several weeks as we go through this book of Galatians we're going to talk about freedom. That's what the book of Galatians is about, the freedom that we have in Christ.

You remember last week we talked about the freedom that we have from sin and it comes from salvation in Christ alone. Remember in the passage last week we started talking about three things that the Judaizers or those other people were trying to add to salvation. One was you have to worship on the Sabbath day. Number two, you have to obey the Jewish dietary laws. And number three, you have to be circumcised. They had good intentions because they wanted the

best for these people, but they were wrong. They were adding rules to the salvation that God has provided for us and in adding rules to salvation, you weaken the message of grace.

It's not about rules; it's about grace. When we have grace alone, when we recognize we are nothing, there is nothing we could do to earn our salvation then you're close. You're close to recognizing that you're ready for salvation to come into your heart. It's not because of anything we do; it's by grace alone. Paul is so passionate about that story as he's moving forward.

It's really fun to listen to testimonies about people who've accepted Jesus Christ into their lives. How it's changed their lives. For some people some of those people have grown up in a Christian home and they have an amazing testimony because the legacy has been passed on from one generation to the next and they can talk about how God has helped them grow. Then there's other people who have gotten saved just recently. But each person has a story, and that story is a really interesting one. I love to hear the stories of people who've committed themselves to Christ, what brought them to Christ, and what God is doing in their lives.

When anyone tells a story, the story of their salvation experience or testimony, there's three parts. Here's what I was before, here's how I came to know Jesus, and here's what God is doing in my life now. That's the three parts.

You looking for a testimony? Tell your story. People are out there waiting to hear solutions for our world dilemmas and if God has done something in your heart, just tell your story so people can hear that.

Now as we go into Galatians 1 and 2, the first two chapters, we see the story of Paul. In fact, we're going to see in Galatians some things we don't see in the book of Acts about how Paul got converted and some of his experience. So we get to learn a little bit more about his story. He's going to give us a vision for his apostleship. We're going to get to know some of those things.

Turn with me to Galatians 1:11. Verse 11 says this: *I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin.* He starts with very tender words, *brothers and sisters.*

Every person has a story. It's not just about giving people information, but if you stop and listen to the stories that people tell then it gives you this empathy that you just want to passionately share.

Let me give you something that I think will be helpful. As I listened to my new doctor friend that I met last Monday I listened to him talk about his professional life. I listened to him tell me about his personal life. As he's sharing those things, I'm saying, "You know, could I just share with you about the gospel, about what it means to become a Christian?" He told me that he had already met someone who was a Christian. His financial planner is a born-again Christian. I said, "I'm a born again Christian too. Can I tell you what it means to be born again?" And he's interested to hear the story. But first I listened to his story.

What God does is He takes the stories of each of us as people and where we've come from up to this point, and He weds that story with His story, and He brings that story into his life. It's so fun to be part of that and watch what happens as people come to know Christ.

Paul wants us to know that *the gospel I preached is not of human origin*. It didn't come from some human somewhere; it came from God Himself. We each need to know that. Each one of us needs to recognize that the message we have isn't some creed somewhere. It didn't come from a church. It came from God Himself. It is a personal message. That's going to be the message I think we're going to walk away from today.

The message of Jesus Christ is a personal one that each one of us needs to experience. It's not just something that we discover because our parents are Christians. It isn't just something we discover because we go to a church or something. It's because it's a personal message that comes to each of us.

Look at how he continues on in verse 12. *I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ*. That needs to take place in each one of our hearts. I can tell you about how to get saved. I can tell you what the Bible has to say. But you want the place where God is speaking to you directly.

How is He going to do that? He's going to do that through His word. Go to His word and say, "God, I want you to speak to me and tell me what you have for me," and God will do that. He wants a personal relationship with you.

Now Paul, when he understands this, is so passionate. We looked last week at a couple of verses that showed the passion in the book of Galatians, how passionate he is.

He says in chapter 1:6, *I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel*. You just see the passion in Paul's voice.

In chapter 3:1 he says, *You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified*. He's passionate.

I think we become more passionate when we see and recognize what God has done in our lives. So he starts with this idea of *brother and sister*. He's establishing his authority as he's going to share this message with them.

We go on to verse 13 as he continues his testimony. Verse 13 says this: *For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it*.

*Persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it*. See, Paul was on a mission. He was involved in Judaism, a different religion than Christianity by the way. But he was on a mission to destroy – do you see the word there *destroy*? It's a military term – to destroy the church. That's his objective. So he's going all over everywhere, Jerusalem, Bethany, all over trying to find

Christians, put them in prison or kill them. That's his goal. He's on a mission to destroy Christianity.

Those words ought to ring true. Just think about the news today. There are people on a mission to destroy Christianity. I want to share with you a story about a man. This man's name is Denny. He's a missionary in Bahrain. Now Denny used to be a pastor in New Jersey of a Calvary Chapel and now he's over in Bahrain and he has a real heart for reaching the Arabic community. He's looking for ways to do that.

He sent back a message to us this week by email to the pastors in New Jersey and I want to read you his message because I want you to see what's going on behind the news. You know the news. You're reading about the news. You know what's happening all over the place and the persecution that's happening is people are trying to destroy Christians. But Denny's telling us some more about what's going on. I want to hear what's going on behind the news.

Denny says this: "I recently returned from the Kurdistan province of Iraq where I ministered with friends from the International Bible Society. Overwhelming human disaster there with so many refugees. Vast majority of them are Yazidi, an ancient religious group that ISIS has declared less than human and launched a genocide against them. Thousands of men murdered. Perhaps as many as 20,000 women and girls kidnapped and sexually abused. Unimaginable horror stories. Old people crying for their daughters to be returned. Parents whose children were murdered. Some that died on Mount Sinjar for lack of water. People scattered and living in abandoned buildings, warehouses, schoolhouses, tents. So many tents. In one camp there were 37,000 families, about 196,000 people.

The trip was exhausting but fruitful. We bought \$4,000 worth of blankets, \$5,000 worth of medicine, gave away 500 pairs of shoes. While I must commit my duties here in Bahrain, I am continuing to raise funds for the relief effort and planning to return Christmas week hoping to do a kids outreach with the gospel and give presence to the kids. Pray for wisdom and that I don't get too emotional about all of this. It's heartbreaking yet inspiring to see the churches doing all that they can.

One really sweet thing – we shared the gospel, stories, prayed for folks, and they were eager to hear about God's love, and people are turning to Christ. The harvest is ripe, so I appreciate your prayers and I encourage you to keep preaching Christ crucified and risen. He is our only hope and peace."

The persecution around our world right now is terrible.

If you follow me on Facebook you'll see that last Wednesday I was in New York City with 1200 representatives from around the world. The goal of this particular meeting was to meet with people in the 4/14 Movement. The number 4 stands for children, 14 is age fourteen, and 4/14 Movement represents all children and youth. How can we reach the next generation for Jesus Christ.

There were 1200 people represented there. Delegates from all over the world representing ways to reach this next generation. I am a leader both nationally in North America and globally to try to work in the family area. How can we help parents pass the faith onto their children. So as soon as I arrived, people were waiting to meet with me. I had meetings with all kinds of people.

I'm going to share with you about this guy. I can't tell you his name because this is being recorded and this broadcast will be placed on the internet.

I said to him after the midst of our discussion, "Can I take a picture of you?" His eyes got big and he said, "You can take a picture of me, but don't put it on Facebook." I said, "Okay. I just want to show the people in my church."

This gentleman (you can see the parenting resources down below) is from Jordan. You see our nametags are turned around backwards so that the names would not appear in the photograph of who we are. But he's from Jordan.

In Jordan he's trying to help the churches there, the individuals pass the faith onto other people. He's trying to teach his people this: one tract each day. Hand out one tract to each person each day. After they do that for a while, then he says to them, "Tell someone about the tract. Let me tell you about this tract and why I am giving it to you."

He says people are getting saved. They're sending teams into Lebanon, teams into Syria. He says, "The persecution that we're experiencing is terrible around us," but then he says this: "But it's also good." My eyes perked up because I'm saying you've got to be kidding me. It's not good. I read the news. This isn't good. He says, "No, it's good." Why? He says, "We as Christians are looking now and having to find new creative ways to share the gospel with people and people want to hear the story." So he's sharing the gospel with people.

He's saying, "We're discipling people now and people are weak in their families. We need help with families. Will you come?" He wants me to come. I said, "No, I'm not coming. I'm not coming outside the United States. That's what God has called me to do right now. But maybe we can find some scholarship money to bring you here to be trained next year in October in Washington D.C." We're training presenters like we did last week.

We trained presenters in Southern California. A man from India came and he's going back to share the way to disciple families. It's powerful what's happening.

I'm committed to 4/14 Movement. That's one of the reasons I started this church was because I am committed to families. Not just individuals, helping individuals get to know Jesus. I want people to get to know Jesus and understand their roles and relationship in family and work and so on. You have a role as a dad or a mom or a young person. How can you be more effective? I want to disciple people on that level too. So the 4/14 Movement is strategic.

Just meeting this man and hearing what he has to say was powerful for me because I am studying about Paul who was destroying the church and how God changed him around.

See, the destruction that we're seeing in Jordan or the terrible things we're seeing in the Kurdish province of Iraq, the persecution we're seeing in North Korea, or that we're seeing in parts of Africa right now where Christians are being killed is amazing. But it's not just there. It's happening in our country.

I don't know if you're watching the news, but Ed stood up here a few weeks ago and preached a sermon and when he did he told us that the college campuses in California are shutting down Christian groups on campus unless they'll embrace leadership from a broad variety of people. That unless they'll have people different from them religiously in their leadership or they have different values regarding same gender marriage then they can't be an official group. So on the college campuses we're seeing that pressure.

I don't know if you're watching the news, but this week in Houston the lesbian mayor required that five pastors subpoenaed their sermons. Read the news. It's big news. Subpoenaed their sermons. Why are they subpoenaing their sermons? Because these five pastors are conservative pastors, like myself, preaching the word of God and some of the message that they have is offensive to the mayor. So the mayor is using the government to subpoena those sermons. Those pastors announced yesterday, "We're not giving our sermons. We're taking a stand." Don't mess with the preachers in Texas is their message. We're not going to do this.

Now we have a faceoff because the government is subpoenaing them. Will they go to prison? They might. We are living in a place where the persecution is here in America and we need to be careful about that.

Here's a man who has now come to Jesus Christ. His name is Paul. He was trying to destroy the church. You cannot tell me any person who's here who says, "I'm too far gone. I'm too bad. I can't accept God in my life." Here's a guy who was killing Christians and God rescued him out of there. He knows. He is so aware that there is nothing he did that earned his salvation, that it's only by God's grace, that God has given him something special, and it's so powerful that he needs to know.

Paul had missionary journeys. You can read about them in the book of Acts, but on his third missionary journey Paul is raising money. He's raising money for the poor Christians in Jerusalem because there's a famine in Jerusalem. They needed money. There are widows and orphans in Jerusalem. I can't help but think that he has such a passion for raising this money because he probably caused some of those widows to be widows, he caused some of those orphans to be orphans because of what he was doing. So he has this passion now to take this back and let's raise some money from all the churches in the Galatia area and in Macedonia and in Greece. Let's take money back and help the church in Jerusalem do what they need to do.

Here was a guy who knew it was only by grace that he could be changed. Nothing else could go along with that. It's not the law; it's grace. It's not Moses; it's Jesus. It's not earned; it's received. It's not Mount Sinai; it's Mount Golgotha. It's not religion; it's relationship. It's not work; it's faith. It's not trying; it's trusting. It's not doing; it's done. It's something God has done and we only have that because of the grace that He's done.

Now when God gets ahold of Saul, amazing things happen. Here's a guy who's on his way to Damascus to find Christians. He's not a believer. He's trying to find them and he's going to kill them. He's going to take them back. And in the midst of that God meets him. Knocks him off of his horse if he's on a horse or a chariot. I don't know what he's on, but the Bible says that he falls down on the ground blinded. I just pray, "God, please don't blind me. I'll listen to your whispers. You don't have to hit me like that. I'll listen to what you have to say." But he falls down on the ground.

The message all of a sudden becomes very personal. It's now not just about religion. It's not about traditions. Now it's a very personal message because the words are *Saul*. Saul is a very personal name. His name. *Saul, why do you persecute me?* That's very personal. So Saul says, "*Who are you?*" because Saul doesn't realize he's persecuting a person. He thinks he's attacking a religion. He's not. He's attacking a person, Jesus Christ. So Jesus responds back, "*I'm Jesus, the one you're persecuting.*" This changed his life. It became very personal.

I just want you to know that it needs to become very personal in all of our lives, in each one of our lives. That we are each coming before God and recognizing that. It is not my job to save anyone. It's not my job. My job is to just share the information because God wants to have a personal meeting with you. God wants to have a personal meeting with those people I'm with and if I can be the vehicle through whom God might pass some information, then He'll have that personal meeting with you and it will change your life.

Let's go back to verse 14. He says in Galatians 1:14, *I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers.*

It's very interesting today even in our society that many people are caught up in their own traditions, whatever those traditions might be. Whatever cultural background they have, they're caught up in their traditions. I want you to know that Jesus wants to free you from the traditions so that you can have a personal relationship. It's about being personal.

Verse 15: *But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb* (from the very beginning God had a plan for you and for me. God had a plan for that person that you meet this afternoon) *and called me by his grace* (do you see the word *grace* there? He called me by that grace, that privilege to know Him), *was pleased to reveal his Son in me* (revealed His Son in me – that's that revelation that came to him) *so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human being.* It's not we have to go to someone. You don't have to go to the priest, you don't have to go to church, you don't have to do all of those things. Those come after the fact. The message of the gospel is one that's personal that comes between you and God.

And so he continues to tell us what he did so we can understand how this is a personal message for him. In verse 17 it says, *I did not go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went into Arabia. Later I returned to Damascus.*

Verse 18: *Then after three years...* So for three years God was working in his heart. Needed to take all that theology that he had learned and made it personal for him so that he knew that God

was working personally in his life and what all of that meant. He probably went back and studied the Bible again. He studied it in Judaism; now he went back and saw Jesus in the Old Testament and this came a personal message from Jesus to Paul that he was putting into practice and learning.

Verse 18: *Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days.* Cephas is Peter, the apostle Peter.

I can imagine Paul saying to Peter, “Wow. Can you tell me, Peter, what motivated you to get out of the boat and walk on the water?” I can imagine Peter saying, “I just got caught up in it all. It was just so amazing. Jesus had just fed the five thousand. All this little lunch was divided among five thousand people. They were all filled, satisfied. They had everything they wanted to eat. Then we got in the boat and Jesus told us to go over to the other side, but then the storm stopped us and we were afraid. But then I saw Jesus walking on the water and I was just overcome by all this stuff that I said, ‘Lord, I want more of you. I want to come out on the water.’”

“But that was nothing,” I’m sure Peter said. “You should have seen the lepers get cleansed. The skin sores on their body just disappeared when Jesus healed them. You should’ve seen the blind man, Bartimaeus, who couldn’t see, but God opened his eyes and healed him. Jesus healed people’s physical sicknesses and they were changed people.

But it wasn’t their only physical symptoms. One time Jesus went up to a man who was in a tree. His name was Zacchaeus. He was in a tree because he was too short to see over the crowd, so he wanted to see Jesus coming by. Jesus went under the tree and called him by name. He said, ‘Zacchaeus, come on down because I’m coming to your house today.’ Well we all went over to Zacchaeus’ house that day for lunch. That was an uncomfortable thing for us because Zacchaeus was a tax collector and there were other tax collectors and sinners there. So we were feeling a little bit uncomfortable. But Jesus stood up and said, *Today salvation has come to this house.* Amazing that people were changed.” I’m sure Paul said, “Wow.”

Fifteen days Paul spent with Peter learning about the personal relationship Peter had with Jesus. “Tell me more.”

Peter says, “Well let me take you to the tomb. John ran to the tomb, but he didn’t want to go in. When I went into the tomb I ran right past John right into this empty tomb. Let me show you that there’s no body in there now. It’s empty. It’s an empty tomb.

Let me take you to the upper room where Jesus celebrated communion.” You have to remember that Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 11 about communion as if he was there. He wasn’t there. I’m sure he got that information from Peter or James or somebody. So Peter’s telling him this story. “Let me take you to the upper room. Let me tell you about the communion that we had. Then He got up from the table and put a towel around his waist, and, you’re not going to believe it, He washed all of our feet. I will never forget that message,” I’m sure Peter’s telling Paul.

“Let me take you to the place where the Holy Spirit came down on Pentecost and He was ascended into heaven.” All of these things that Peter spent time with Paul in Jerusalem, probably

touring around and seeing the Garden of Gethsemane and Golgotha and all of these places, and Paul realized something very important. Peter had a very personal message and Paul needed that personal message as well. And so do you and I. It's a very personal message as we're moving forward.

Read on there. Verse 19: *I saw none of the other apostles—only James, the Lord's brother. I assure you before God that what I am writing you is no lie. Then I went to Syria and Cilicia. I was personally unknown to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. They didn't know who I was. They only heard the report: "The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." And they praised God because of me.*

You know, it just reminds me that when we get together on Sunday – “Hey, how are you doing?” “I'm fine.” “Hey what's going on?” – we find out the highlights of each person's life. But we really don't get into the depth of what's going on behind. We don't find out what's going on underneath and what God is doing in people's lives most of the time. That often takes place in small groups where people are sharing, like the men's group, the women's group, small groups, prayer groups that get together. Great opportunities to share and to grow in those particular ways.

But Paul learned something very valuable. In the midst of all of this he learned that it's not about religion, Judaism. It's not about the traditions of my fathers. If you grew up in the church, you've got to be careful. It's not about the traditions of your fathers. It's a personal relationship that you have with Jesus Christ and what that looks like is very important.

*They only heard the report*, but as they got to know Paul and as Paul travels around and meets these people, they get to know the person behind the report. When we get to know the person behind the report, Paul, we see that he had a personal relationship with God. He's so passionate to share that with people that it's by grace that you're saved.

We all need that message. I need it. You need it. Those people around us need it. It's personal. It's not just something that's out there. When things start happening in your life that confound our lives, we start to wonder how personal it is.

I'm working with a man who came to me for counseling because of his family. Not somebody from our church. I don't share illustrations about our church. You don't know this guy. But this guy is disillusioned because things in his family aren't working out the way that he'd hoped. He's even disillusioned about his faith. He's been a Christian for a long time. But he's disillusioned about his faith.

So I said, “This week here's what I want you to do. I want you to listen to God speak. Pick a book of the Bible. What book do you want to study?”

He says, “Ephesians.”

I said, Great. I want you to report to me every day.”

So every day he's sending me a text message or calling me and he's reporting to me what God is saying to him. But he still doesn't get it I don't think. He's been a Christian a long time. But the first day he says to me, “I don't see how this really applies. I'm not getting how this applies to

my marriage relationship.” I wrote back, “Put your baggage aside. Listen to God. Let Him speak to you. Maybe He wants to say something different.”

I’m going to teach this guy how to listen to God. He’s been a Christian for a long time, but I don’t even know if he’s approaching the Bible in the correct way. The Bible is not a playbook for the next football play. The Bible is not a success manual that we just get success principles from. The Bible is God’s word and He speaks to us with words. He speaks to us in a personal way.

He has three messages He wants to communicate to us. Number one, sometimes He just wants to communicate things He knows. Read the book of Ephesians. I’m reading it with him this week. He chose the book. I’m saying, “What is God saying?” Verses 14-17 – He wants you to know that He chose you. He picked you out. He wants you to know that He’s predestined things that are going on in life. He wants you to know that He loves you. He wants you to know things about life.

We’ll call him Bill. So put your name in there. “Bill, I want you to know that I love you.” As soon as you start hearing God speak to you in a personal way, you start saying, “Wow, that’s God speaking. Wow. I need to listen.”

Secondly, God’s going to communicate things that you should feel. I want you to feel cared for. I want you to feel a sense of security. I want you to feel peace. Let’s start there. Let’s not worry about the baggage of your family right now. Let’s worry about what does God want you to know? What does He want you to feel?

And then we’ll go to what does He want you to do. Sometimes in the midst of our reading the scriptures God will tell us something to do. But that’s not the only thing He does. He wants us to know Him. He wants us to feel. He wants us to do. Those are the three things. So I’m going to teach this guy how to experience God and how God speaks to him.

That’s what my personal relationship is with God. I can hardly wait to open the Bible because I don’t know whether God is going to say something big or God’s going to say something small, but I know He’s going to speak to me whenever I open God’s word. He’s going to communicate a personal message to me that I need to put into my life.

If you’re a student here today, I just want you to know that this faith we’re talking about is personal. It’s not about a creed. It’s not about religion. It’s not about taking another class. It is about a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. It’s not about living in a family that has different traditions. Whatever tradition you come from is not that important. The most important thing is that you know Christ personally.

The point is we study Galatians because we learn about freedom. The idea here is that Christ has freed us in a personal relationship with Him.

Do you know Jesus Christ personally? I know many of you would say “yes,” so I’m grateful that you have made that decision to accept Jesus Christ into your heart and life. You’ve said, “I know

I'm a sinner. I know I need a Savior. Jesus Christ is that Savior and I have prayed on my own to come before God and have told Him that I want to accept that Savior into my heart and life." And He will do that. He comes to live in your life. When He does that, then He empowers you. That's just the beginning.

We're Christians now, many of us. You've accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. It's still personal. It's daily. And that's Paul's message. It wasn't something somebody gave to me by some human source. It was something that came to me because Jesus Christ revealed that to me. I would suggest that God continues to reveal Himself to us every day. Amen? Amen.

So let's worship the Lord together. While we do, I want to ask you to draw close to the Lord right now. Allow Him to speak to you. Allow Him to talk to you. If you've never made a commitment to Jesus Christ in your own life, you've never said, "I want you to be the Lord of my life," do that today. That's the start of a beautiful journey in your life.

We'll have prayer counselors on the side that you can go to. They'll pray with you, they'll pray for you. If there's some struggle that you're facing in your life, you're not hearing God, go to the prayer counselors and let them pray on your behalf. It's a beautiful thing to rely on someone else's faith and let them come into the throne room of God and say, "God, I pray for my sister or my brother here." Let them do that and God will bless you as a result of the prayer of someone else.

Let's pray.

[PRAYER] Heavenly Father, we are honored that you would choose us and allow us access to you. We thank you that you are not just a force or an energy source or just an idea, but you're a personal God with a personality, with a desire to be close to us. You want relationship. We need that, Lord. We need it now. We need it this week. We ask that you would do that in our hearts, that you would open our hearts so much to you that we just are overwhelmed by your grace as Paul is in this passage. We ask this in Jesus' name, amen.