

The Dudes at the Dunes - Men's Retreat 2024

Friday Evening - Rhythms 1 thru 4 - Pursue, Read, Pray, Grow

Psalm 1:1-6, “**1. Blessed** is the man who does **not walk** in the counsel of the wicked, **or stand** in the way of sinners, **or sit** in the seat of mockers; **2.** But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. **3.** He is like a tree planted by streams of water which yields its fruit in season, and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does, prospers. **4.** Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. **5.** Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous; **6.** For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.”
New International Version, 1986.

Introduction.

Parenting forces us . . . **Psalm 90:12**, “Teach us to number our days aright that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” **Dad Collins** favorite verse . . . **Proverbs 3:5-6**, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge him and he will direct your paths.”

Proverbs 4:18, “But the path of the righteous is like the **first light of dawn**, which **shines brighter and brighter** until the full light of day.” ESV / ISV

2012 was a tough year. Started **Daily Audio Bible** and **The Brotherhood of The Book**. **2012 to 2014** we went through the book, “*Raising A Modern Day Knight*”, by Robert Lewis. **2015** - Read - *Rhythm the Book*. **2016** - Pray - *Talk to Papa*. **2017** - Grow - *Engage the Nudge*. **2018** - Bless - *Be the Blessing*. **2019** - Protect - *Guard Your Heart*. **2020** - COVID. **2021** - Finish - *Stick the Landing*. **2022** - Pursue - *Follow the Star*. - Psalm 1. **2023** - 1 Peter. **2024** - 2 Peter. www.the-brotherhood-of-the-book.org



1. Rhythm 1 - Pursue - *“Follow the Star”*.

Psalm 1:1, “Blessed is the man who does not **walk . . . stand . . . sit**”

What does it **mean** to “Pursue”?

Merriam Webster - “to find or employ measures to obtain or accomplish; to proceed along (a course); to follow in order to catch up with and seize; **to seek**.”

Wise Men In “Pursuit” - Holy & Sacred.

Matthew 2:1-2, “**1.** After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, **Magi from the east came to Jerusalem 2.** and asked, “**Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.**”

The Wise Men - Three Lessons & One Question.

1 - The Wise Men had to “Look Up to Move Forward”. v.2,

2 - They were given a “Direction” not a “Destination.” v. 1,

3 - They asked questions till they found the “Holy & Sacred”. v. 2

They asked the One Question Wise Men Ask . . .

“Where is he who is born King of the Jews?”

2. Rhythm 2 - Read - *“Rhythm the Book”*.

Psalm 1:2a, “But his **Delight** is in the Law of the Lord . . .”

“Delight” means . . . “To bend toward, be drawn in, to find joy”.

“Delight” is assumed to be constant; never ending; all the time.

It’s the difference between a **“workout”** and a **“rhythm.”**

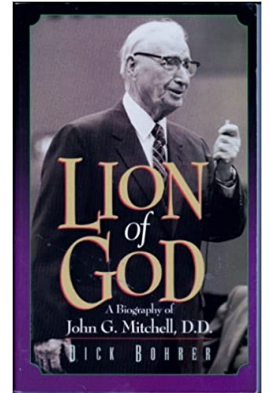
Psalm 19:10-11, “The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous. They are **more precious than gold**, than much pure gold; they are **sweeter than honey**, than honey from the honeycomb. By them your servant is warned; **in keeping them there is great reward.**”

Deuteronomy 32:46-47, “he said to them, “Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law. They are not just idle words for you—**they are your life**. By them you will live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess.”

LION OF GOD , A Biography of John G. Mitchell, DD

John G. Mitchell, DD founded Central Bible Church in **1942**. It became the largest church west of the Mississippi until he retired in 1967. He founded Central Bible Church and Multnomah School of The Bible and radio preaching. He was best known for his knowledge of the scripture. He could quote scripture for hours without looking. **His secret?** For the entirety of his ministry, before he preached on a passage of scripture, he would read the book from which it was taken, in its entirety, fifty times. Fifty times! He is quoted as saying, "I never set out to memorize the Bible, I just read it so much that I knew it by heart."

<http://www.dickbohrerbooks.com/Biography/LionofGod.pdf>



2 Timothy 3:16-17, "All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, **that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.**"

What is the one question Wise Men Ask?
"Is the "Word of God" your very life?"

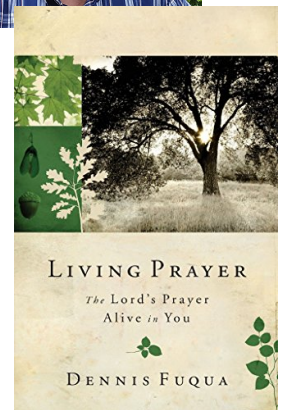
3. Rhythm 3 - Pray - "Talk to Papa".

Psalms 1:2b, "and on his law he meditates day and night."

Friday, January 13, 2017, the day I met Dennis Fuqua.

"Living Prayer", page 23,28, "Just as the end result of all our interaction with the Word should be mediation, so also the end result of meditation should be prayer. In fact, the final part of meditation is prayer. Meditation begins with **pondering** the text, then moves to **personalizing** it, and concludes with **praying** the text back to God . . . Prayer does not start in the heart or with your feelings, it begins with the Word of God . . . Without meditation on God's Word, your prayers run the risk of being shallow, short sighted and self focused."

"The Lord's Prayer" Matthew 6 & Luke 11. **Upward** - Adoration & Praise.
Inward - Petition & Confession **Outward** - Intercession



"Asking Jesus to teach you to pray is one of the most important questions you can ever ask Him."

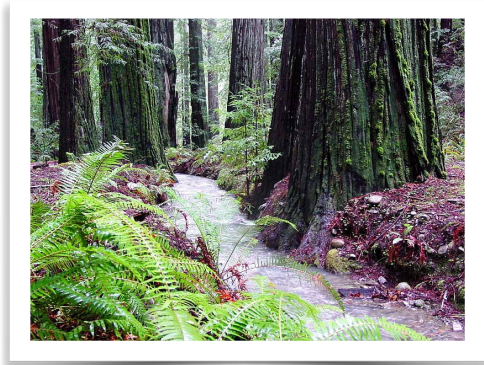
Dennis Fuqua

Prayer is . . . "Talk to Papa"

4. Rhythm 4 - Grow - “Engage the Nudge”

Psalm 1:3, “He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water . . .”

When you read, “a tree planted by rivers of water”, what do you envision?



California Redwood Trees

vs.



Israeli Negev Acacia Tree

“**Water**” in Psalm 1 . . . can mean a “river”, it can also mean, “source”. Meaning a source of water above ground but also can mean a source of water below ground.

The Acacia Tree. Grows in harsh environments; has green leaves year round and fruit in season. It’s roots go deep to find water that no one sees. Which is why God had Moses and the Israelites make all the Tabernacle furniture and equipment out of Acacia wood and then covered it in gold.

You have to **Grow Deep**; before you **Grow Up**.

2 Peter 1:5-8, For this very reason, **make every effort** to add to your **faith goodness**; and to goodness, **knowledge**; and to knowledge, **self-control**; and to self-control, **perseverance**; and to perseverance, **godliness**; and to godliness, **mutual affection**; and to mutual affection, **love**. For if you possess these qualities in **increasing measure**, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The One Question Wise Men ask . . . “**What’s the next step?**”

“**Expect Attacks, Form your Packs, Have their Backs**”

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