

MESSAGE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

NOV 1, 2020 // SERENITY



POWERLESS

Senior Pastor Marty Grubbs began a new series taking us through the popular Serenity Prayer, focusing specifically on the first phrase, “God grant me the serenity to accept things I cannot change.” Dissecting this first sentence, we find biblical undertones of the Christian faith. First, we acknowledge there is God—someone more powerful than ourselves. This faith gives us the ability to trust his authority over the world, and more specifically and personally, our own life. Second, God, in his goodness and mercy, will help us recognize our powerlessness in circumstances of this life, and will give us the gift of peace that we need to endure them.

se·ren·i·ty: /səˈrenədə/ – *noun* – the state of being calm, peaceful, and untroubled

SCRIPTURE: HEBREWS 11:1, JOHN 14:27, PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7, 1 PETER 5:7

“The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. It’s our handle on what we can’t see.” – Hebrews 11:1 MSG

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” – John 14:27 NIV

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” – Philippians 4:6-7 NIV

“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.” – 1 Peter 5:7 NIV

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you in Marty’s message on serenity? How was this helpful?
2. Read Hebrews 11:1 from the Message paraphrase. What do you learn about faith?
3. When have you seen the foundation of faith make a difference in life’s circumstances—either in your own life or the life of someone you know?
4. Read John 14:27, Philippians 4:6-7, 1 Peter 5:7. How do these verses capture the idea of serenity?
5. What does serenity look like in your life? Is your tendency to seek peace from God, or to hold onto anxiety, troubles, control, bitterness, etc., hoping you can change circumstances? What specific examples can you share?
6. What are some issues or situations in your life you can, in faith, turn over to God, and accept peace as the answer? How will this be beneficial?

PRAYER

Admit to God your struggle with control over circumstances and outcomes of things you cannot change. Ask God to take from you the anxiety and fearfulness that goes along with powerlessness, and to replace it with his supernatural peace. Ask him to help you build your foundation of faith, and to grant you the peace that comes from knowing you are a citizen of the kingdom ruled by a God that is unshakeable, unchanging, and good – both here and now, and everlasting.