

The Faith Script

CPFI Serving Christ and the World Through Pharmacy

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One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When He finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples." Luke 11:1 (NIV)

[Prayer Wall](#)

First Pray

Have you ever been confronted with a situation or decision for which you did not know what to do or where to turn? Perhaps it was a fairly small and simple decision affecting yourself or only a few others. Or perhaps it was situation with far reaching implications affecting many other people who were counting on you to make the fair and best decision for all involved. In many ways it would be quite an honor for others to put their trust in you and place you in this position. On the other hand, this could be quite a daunting and weighty responsibility and one not to be taken lightly.

I recently was confronted by such a situation of a larger magnitude. I was meeting with a colleague whom I respect a great deal and we both were sharing our thoughts on a particular situation. The more we talked and weighed the pros and cons of the situation, the more both of us realized that the decision would be a very challenging and difficult one. We seemed to have more questions than answers the further we discussed the situation. We came to the point of our conversation in which no more could be said and we just needed to go off alone and reflect. Getting quite emotional about the gravity of the situation, I told my colleague that I needed to go and that I "just" needed to pray about it.

Recently, many of our students, faculty, and staff have been dealing with the illnesses or deaths of family members and friends. The weekly CPFI prayer had been sent out only to the CPFI student members over the last few years. At the faculty and staff Christmas luncheon this year, a request for prayer concerns was asked verbally before the blessing of the meal. What resulted was an overwhelming number of prayer requests from the faculty and staff in attendance. A prayer was shared. Soon thereafter, an email was sent inviting faculty and staff to also share their prayer concerns for the weekly CPFI prayer. The response was great and now many faculty and staff have been added to the weekly prayer chain. Later that evening after the meeting about the aforementioned situation, I sat down at my computer to compose the weekly CPFI prayer for our School of Pharmacy. I thought to myself that this was my chance to go to God as I had mentioned to "just" pray about the situation. But it dawned on me as I typed--why did I say the word "just" earlier in the day in referring to prayer. Perhaps, the better word would be "first".

The Bible has much to say about prayer, giving us actual prayers, prayer requests, answers to prayers, and guidance on prayer. Jesus is our model for prayer. We know that Jesus prayed regularly as Luke 5:16 tells us "Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed." (NIV) Jesus also tells us to concentrate on the Father when we pray saying, "But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will

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reward you.” Matthew 6:6 The story of the persistent widow begins by Luke telling us “Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.” Luke 18:1-13 A disciple asks Jesus to teach them to pray in Luke 11:1-4 and Jesus demonstrates by praying the Lord’s Prayer. Jesus goes on to tell them more, “So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.” Luke 11:9-10 But as Jesus reminds us, God is ultimately in charge, as he prayed in Gethsemane, “Yet not as I will, but as You will.” Matthew 26:30

So next time you have a decision to make, be it big or small, remember to not “just” pray about it, but “first” pray about it. Seek God’s guidance, place it in His hands, and He will see you through. And ask that not your own will, but His will be done. Giving it all up to God can be so liberating We may not know the outcome to the situation, but we know that God will be there for us and never leave us. As for the situation that myself and my colleague were discussing, prayers were answered in God’s way. So be encouraged and first pray, as Paul reminds us in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (KJV) to "pray without ceasing." Thanks be to God who gives us this victory through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Mark Johnson, PharmD, CPFI Member
Winchester, VA

American Pharmacy Association 2016 Annual Meeting & Exposition CPFI Prayer Breakfast

Date: Sunday, March 6, 2016

Time: 7:30 am to 8:45 am

Location: Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, MD

Speaker: Edward M Bednarczyk, PharmD, FCCP

Clinical Associate Professor, Chairman, Pharmacy Practice
University of Buffalo

Topic: 'Quo Vadis: How do we discern God’s will for our lives?'

Cost: \$25.

Sign up when you register for the conference or purchase a ticket at the door. Limited number of tickets sold at the door.

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2016 CPFI Annual Conference & National Student Retreat

Theme: ‘Our security is (only) in Christ’

Student Retreat: June 8 to June 12

Conference: June 9 to June 12

Springmaid Beach Resort

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

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(Full program and student program will be available soon.)

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