

***From the Pastor***

The next section of Christ's Sermon on the Mount deals with the vital subject of prayer. Here in Matthew 7:7-12 Jesus spoke of one of the fundamental keys to answered prayer. The key is to ask. This is obviously very basic. However, it is a key that is all too often not used for reasons that differ from person to person.

Some are just too busy doing other things to set aside the time necessary for prayer. This can be idolatry. God created us to become His sons and daughters. What is more important than talking with our Father who loves us?

Some may feel prayer is a waste of time because they do not clearly see that God is really concerned for them and their needs. Here God is not real to them. Satan loves to see people feeling this way. Satan loves to see people not praying. Too often if people wait to feel like praying, they will never begin. The Adversary can easily influence moods and feelings.

Obviously, building a relationship with God, seeking God, drawing close to God, truly coming to know God is a vital step in developing an effective prayer habit. But, building a relationship with God requires prayer. We need to cry out to our Father in prayer asking that He help us come to know Him better. If God sees this real desire in us, then He will draw close to us (James 4:7-10) and His Son will reveal the Father to us (Matthew 11:27).

Building a relationship with God requires that we have a hunger and thirst for understanding and growing in righteousness. Psalm 11:7 records, "For the Lord is righteous, He loves righteousness, His countenance beholds the upright."

The righteous are those who are truly committed to living according to what God says is right. Having a real commitment of heart to truly living by what God says is right in letter and spirit is how God has said we can come to know Him.

John recorded in 1 John 2:3-4, "Now by this we know that we know Him [this is how we know that we truly know God], if we keep His commandments. He who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him."

As we seek to live by the spirit of God's laws (God's love) we come to understand God's mind of love better. As a result we will come to know God better. And, God seeing this commitment of our heart, He will draw close to us and be revealed to us. But, this must be the commitment of our life, and, not just something we occasionally do.

What do we want? "Ask and you shall receive..."

	<b>Victoria</b>	<b>Corpus Christi</b>	<b>Harlingen</b>
Sunset Today in:	7:57pm	7:57pm	7:57pm
Sunset Friday 4-27	8:01pm	8:00pm	8:00pm

# Church of God South Texas

Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen



April 21, 2018

## Victoria

*Sermon:* Steve Moody

## Corpus Christi

*Bible Study:* Arnold Mendez

## Harlingen

*Bible Study:* Arnold Mendez

"If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone...If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"  
Luke 11:11-13

## Announcements and Schedule

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<b>Sabbath 4/21</b>	Regular times and locations for Corpus Christi, San Antonio, Harlingen, and Victoria.
<b>Sabbath 4/28</b>	Regular times and locations for all congregations. Mr. Moody will be in Corpus Christi. Mr. Chapman will be in Victoria and San Antonio. A HQ DVD will be played in Harlingen.

## Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

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**San Antonio Potluck:** The next regularly will be May 5, 2018.

**Corpus Christi Bible Study:** On the Sabbath of 4-21-18 there will be a Bible Study and a Brown Bag Social.

### **Feast of Tabernacles:**

In the first week we have over 60 percent of our U.S. COGWA members registered for the Feast of Tabernacles! While Festival registration will continue to be open over the next few weeks, we strongly encourage those members who have not yet registered for the Feast of Tabernacles to do so soon. This includes those who will not be able to attend the Feast. These registration numbers greatly assist us in our early Festival planning.

Please note: Rapid City, South Dakota, is now closed to further registration, as it is at total capacity. Those members who have not yet registered may want to consider San Diego, California—a wonderful West Coast destination—for the Feast this year. In addition, there remains plenty of room at all remaining U.S./North American Feast sites.

- May 7: Early housing reservations begin.
- May 14: Regular housing reservations begin at 10 a.m. in the time zone of the Festival site/location.