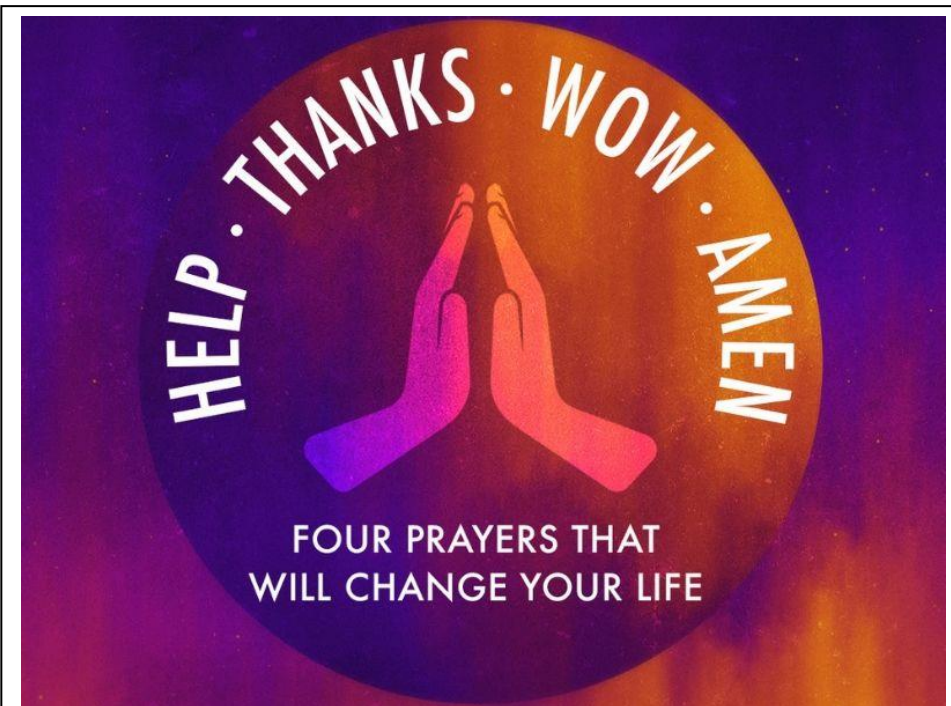


When I look at your heavens,  
the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars  
that you have established;

what are human beings  
that you are mindful of them,  
mortals that you care for them?

Psalm 8:3-4  
NRSV



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Psalm 8:3-4  
NRSV

## “Wow”

November 17, 2019

“Help” is the first great prayer.

“Thanks” is our response to God’s amazing blessings.

For some moments, the only word we can muster is “Wow.”

The problem: we become desensitized to wonder.

It’s difficult to experience wonder when our first reaction is, “Can I Instagram this?”

Without wonder, we miss the glory of God that infuses everything.

### Learning to Marvel

The beauty of the night sky prompts David’s reflection.

In light of the vastness of the cosmos, God’s care for humans is amazing.

Creation reveals the beauty of the Creator.

If we never pause to look up at the stars, we never see them.

When we practice stillness, we learn to notice God’s wonders.

When people encountered Jesus, one of the most common reactions was amazement.

Perhaps the greatest failure of the church is our loss of wonder at the scandal of God’s grace.

When we consider the love of Jesus, no words suffice but “Wow.”

Wonder at God’s grace increases our creativity, joy, and love.

### Action Steps

1. Practice stillness.
2. Take time to marvel. Look at God’s creatures without posting about them.
3. Reflect on your lifestyle. Choose one way to increase your care for God’s creation.

## “Wow”

November 10, 2019

“\_\_\_\_\_” is the first great prayer.

We all want to be more grateful, but we often don’t \_\_\_\_\_ grateful.

“Give thanks in \_\_\_\_\_ circumstances, for this is the will of Jesus Christ for you.” 1 Thessalonians 5:18

What is keeping you from gratitude? \_\_\_\_\_

If we are not grateful, our lives are devoid of \_\_\_\_\_.

It all begins with a word: \_\_\_\_\_.

### Growing into Gratitude

“Help” is a great prayer, but if we stop there, we see only our \_\_\_\_\_.

The Psalms are the \_\_\_\_\_ book of the church.

Psalms 136 is a call to give thanks to God “for he is \_\_\_\_\_.”

- God’s goodness in \_\_\_\_\_.
- God’s faithfulness in the \_\_\_\_\_.
- God’s provision of our \_\_\_\_\_ needs.

We begin by \_\_\_\_\_ everything we have, whether large or small, is a gift from God, and saying, “Thanks.”

### In All Circumstances?

One of the greatest threats to gratitude is \_\_\_\_\_.

In the midst of pain, look for \_\_\_\_\_.

Our gratitude ultimately comes not from our circumstances, but from \_\_\_\_\_.

Develop a \_\_\_\_\_ of gratitude.

1. Giving thanks at \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Reviewing the day: the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Celebrating Communion—the \_\_\_\_\_—weekly.

As our hearts move to the rhythm of gratitude, we want to \_\_\_\_\_ God’s blessings with others.

*Gratitude doesn’t make everything better,  
but it makes us better in everything.*

### Action Steps

1. Each night before bed, write down \_\_\_\_\_ from the day. Thank God for them.
2. Give others a reason to be \_\_\_\_\_.