

Series: Healing	Reference: Acts 19:11-22	Title: The Faith Formula	Date: 1.20.19
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Community Group Questions

Take time to pray through the Six:Eight Prayer Foci for 2019

*If the Holy Spirit gives anyone a specific word for the church
share them with the other Community Group Leaders.*

- 1. FREEDOM:** Pray against spiritual attack on our church body & it's members, so that kingdom ministry goes unhindered.
- 2. SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION:** Pray we'd abide in the Presence of Christ, honoring the Word & Spirit of God, being transformed & becoming more effective in witness. That we'd be drawn deeply into worship & prayer in powerful ways this year.
- 3. LEADERSHIP:** Pray for leadership to be filled with the knowledge of the Word & power of the Spirit, operating out of the two as gracious strong servant leaders.
- 4. MINISTRIES:** For all 8 church ministries to run smoothly, having all current & future resources provided for them to thrive (*Kids, Community Groups, Kingdom Opportunities, Stewardship, Impressions, Worship Arts, Prayer, Missions*).
- 5. LOCAL EVANGELISM:** That we'd preach the Word boldly & minister in the power of the Spirit to see people come to faith & publicly declare that through baptism. - for divine openings with neighbors, coworkers, friends & Community Partners.
- 6. CROSS-CULTURAL MISSION:** To be a 'House of Prayer for all Nations' (Isaiah 56:7), obedient to the Great Commission (Mt 28:18-20), overflowing to our Kinship Network relationships reaching Arab world Muslims, and other mission endeavors of the church.
- 7. GIVING:** Pray that we'd be stretched in faithful giving of our financial resources in order not to be hindered in our kingdom ministry as a church.

Study Questions

- 1. ICEBREAKER:** Give each person small piece of paper (or 3X5 card) & a pen or pencil. Each person writes, their name, a God Moment they recognized in their day (some way in which they recognize God moved today), and one area in which they want to grow this year (a Character Issue, consistent Quiet Times, a Spiritually Formative Habit, etc.). Collect these, mix them up, and hand them out - each person prays for whichever card they get. Pray them aloud if comfortable, if not just make this your prayer for the other person this week!
- 2.** This sermon addressed the concept of *THE FAITH FORMULA*. What would be your working definition of this? Remembering, as you define it, terms such as *The Prosperity Gospel, The Health & Wealth Gospel*, and the phrase '*Name it & claim it!*'
- 3.** Who are a few of the famous proponents/teachers of this? And why is this lie so subtle, hard to address & argue against?

1. The Faith Formula says, *“If you fulfill God’s conditions by believing enough, God will heal. If you don’t fulfill his conditions by believing enough, he won’t.”* OR, *“Failure to be healed (or to heal someone) must always come back to a lack of faith.”*
2. How is this reverting backwards to a ‘works based righteousness’? And why is it so damaging to us & others?
4. What was your reaction to the Gilmore’s story of their son passing on p1 of the sermon? Why is this so tragic? Why was ‘faith’ in that situation not truly faith, or misdirected faith?
5. **THE FAITH FORMULA says three things...**
 1. **FIRSTLY**, it holds to a strict causality between faith & healing. Human faith is a prerequisite to healing.
 1. Look up some of the passages on pp3-4 listed & discuss why this is not true.
 2. Discuss this quote: *‘False teachers invite people to the Masters Table because of what’s on it, not because they love the Master’*
 2. **SECONDLY**, it says divine blessings such as health & prosperity are constantly & fully available to all Christians, all the time.
 1. The Faith Formula is *Contractual*, not *Covenantal*. It says, *“If I live up to my side of the bargain, you’re obliged to live up to your side.”* It negates Grace, the complexities of the spiritual realm & the Lordship of Christ. Why is this so contrary to the true Gospel life? What’s the difference between a contractual relationship & a covenantal one? What if marriage was contractual & not covenantal?
 3. **THIRDLY**, it proposes health & wealth can be instantly appropriated by God’s Children if they know enough & believe enough at any time.
 1. Read through Hebrews 11:32-39, 10:35-36, Romans 8:1, 21, 23, 38-39 & discuss why this idea is contrary to the Christian life.
 2. What is our hope in, even when healing does not occur?
 3. Discuss this quote in light of the above: *‘Any gospel of healing which can’t be spoken with confidence & received as comfort at the death bed isn’t the gospel of Jesus Christ.’* What did Ken Blue mean in this statement?
6. How does all this change the way we pray for healing, or manage our expectations & emotions while doing so?