



"For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come."- 1 Timothy 4:8

THANK YOU!

A huge shout-out to the HCYA Hurricanes parent volunteers! I think sometimes we're guilty of not realizing just how much goes on "behind the scenes" to ensure the program runs smoothly. Consider the following tasks, and be sure to thank those who step up consistently to serve in such capacities: scheduling (and often re-scheduling) games (71 so far!); organizing referees; parent coaches; team moms; board members. Senior Recognition Night was a prime example servanthood. It was not only well prepared and thought out, but was conducted with excellence. It was an occasion that will last long in the memories of both the Seniors and their parents. Great job everyone. Oh and by the way...The Annual Banquet doesn't just happen on its own, and neither do the Christmas parties!☺



DEVOTIONAL THEME: PRAYER – "If life gets too hard to stand...Kneel"

In John 17, we see how Jesus Christ, the true maker of heaven and earth, God in the flesh, prayed just before being betrayed and arrested. In the 26 verses of what is often called "The High Priestly Prayer", we see Jesus pray for Himself (1-5), His Disciples (6-19) and for all believers (20-26). Here, we see several important aspects of Jesus's petition to the Father:

- It was personal – Jesus had direct access to the One enthroned in heaven
- It was selfless – Jesus prayed for His disciples; for their protection, their consecration for holiness and service in the truth (11-19)
- It was for you and for me – Those who would believe in the future. In particular, Jesus prayed that as believers, we would be a unified people, enabling us to bear witness to the true identity of Jesus as the One sent by God



APPLICATIONS

- If Jesus prayed, then so should we! For some, it comes naturally. For others, speaking to an invisible God may seem unnecessary or even foolish. But perhaps the real question is not if we pray, but if in fact, God hears our prayers. Does sincerity of prayer to a false, man-made god qualify us to be heard by the God of the Bible? Scripture is very clear on this: Only the Christ follower has unlimited access to God and only the Christian has a God who personally represents them. Romans 8:34 tells us that Jesus is interceding for us in heaven, so that when Satan accuses us before the Father, Jesus, our advocate, stands at His right hand, ready to present our case and declare us "innocent" not because of our good works, but because of the righteousness of Christ which has been imputed to us!
- Prayer is a great privilege for the Christian. Through prayer, we connect with our heavenly Father in a way that is not possible on a human level. Since nothing is hidden from God, we can pour out our heart, share our fears, admit our struggles, proclaim our joys and victories, offload our burdens and, of course, receive cleansing from our sin (1 John 1:9). Too often, however, we view prayer as an "add on" or as a non-essential in our Christian walk. Martin Luther once said, "To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing". In the same vein, an anonymous quote states, "When God's people go down on their knees, the battle is not over. It has just begun!" So...let's get moving...on our knees!

Looking forward to seeing you next week!

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Sports Quest:
"Sharing biblical truth to reach, teach & encourage
next generation leaders through soccer"

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." - Philippians 4:13