

# Divin' In – Wednesday Night Bible Study

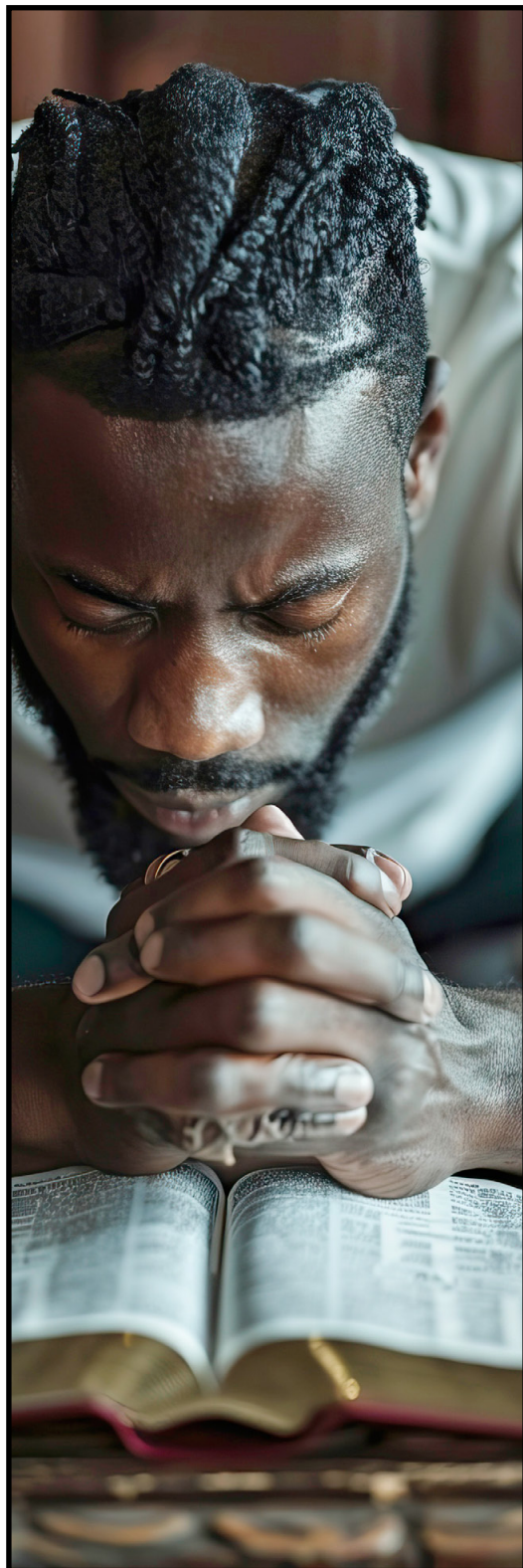
THE CHURCH OF THE SPRINGS – 8/14/24



*“Oh, that EVERY person would praise the Lord for His goodness,  
and for His wonderful works to all the descendents of Adam!”*

– Psalm 107:8<sup>GW</sup>

## Obedience and Gratitude



### James 1:17 AMP

“Every good thing given and every **perfect** gift is from above; it comes down from the Father of lights [the Creator and Sustainer of the heavens], in Whom there is no variation [no rising or setting] or shadow cast by His turning [for He is perfect and never changes].”

### Isaiah 41:10 ESV/NET

“Fear not, for I am with you; do not be **dismayed**, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.”

### Phillippians 4:7 EXB

“And God’s peace, which is so great we cannot understand it [transcends and **surpasses** all comprehension], will keep [guard] your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”

### Matthew 6:25-33 ESV+

“So I tell you, don’t worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food, or drink, or clothes. Doesn’t life consist of **more** than food and clothing?”

“Look at the **birds**. They don’t plant, or harvest, or store food in barns, because your Heavenly Father feeds them. And you are far, FAR more valuable to God than the birds are! Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? Of course not.

“And why worry about your **clothes**?! Consider the lilies of the field, and how they grow. They don’t work, or make their clothing, and yet Solomon, KING Solomon in ALL his glory, was not dressed as beautifully as these are. And if God cares so **wonderfully** for flowers that are here today and gone tomorrow, won’t He more surely care for you? You have so little faith!

“So don’t worry about having enough food, or drink, or clothing. Why be like the pagans, the atheists, the unbelievers, who are so deeply concerned about these things. Your heavenly Father already **knows** all your needs. Seek ye **first** the Kingdom of God and HIS righteousness; SEARCH AND live for Him—make the Kingdom of God your primary concern, and ALL the things you **need** will be given to you.”

### Judges 21:25 ESV

“In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was **right** in his own eyes.”

### “Make Christianity Strange Again”

Over at the website Plough, Sheluyang Peng has an engaging article titled “Make Christianity Strange Again.” It is a review of Nijay K. Gupta’s latest book, “*Strange Religion: How the First Christians Were Weird, Dangerous and Compelling*.” Peng notes that the first Christians lived in a world and an empire that viewed them not just as odd but as a threat. In that empire, Christians were not only ridiculed but persecuted.

In other countries, Christians are STILL persecuted. But the early Christians did not shy away from the depredations of the larger culture, or try to change their identities to suit the world around them. Peng notes that those Christians happily **embraced** their status as outsiders because they understood what their faith meant and that they already had **truth**.

One way or the other, prayers will be answered in November. No matter the outcome, we are still called to live in **GRATITUDE** and **OBEDIENCE**.

### Matthew 11:15 ESV

“He who has **ears** to hear, let him hear.”