

## Sermon Reflection: (10 min)

**Title: Faithful Character In Crisis: Prayers of Faith, Teacher: Tim Rice**

Intro: Prayer is hard. How is your prayer life? Vs What are your conversations with God like?

### How did things go wrong? Prayer malfunctions in suffering – internal / external

Pride and Unbelief - Keep us from praying.

Examples: Ice Cream scoop, Hole dug for a basement, Grand Canyon

Pride – Self-Reliant

Unbelief – Self-Pity

I am sufficient.

I don't want God.

I don't need God.

I suspect God.

Prayer is the antidote to both – Pride and Unbelief

Q. How does prayer cut the heart out of pride?

Q. How does prayer erode unbelief?

### Jesus – Our Good Shepherd, engages our Heavenly Father and us

The wrath of God - “giving over”, His leaving us to ourselves,

Ghosting - to go silent on social media, To stop following someone

Engagement - to pursue,

Jesus leaves Heaven to enter earth to pursue us

Wander from the truth - Jesus pursues.

Love moves toward people - love chases the wanderer

Q. What does it feel like to be “ghosted”? How do you re-engage?

Q. When was a time that you felt “ghosted” by God? How do you re-engage?

Q. What do your conversations sound like?

Q. What does it mean to you that God promises to “never leave you or forsake you”?

### Living Engaged – Awakened to Believing The Gospel – Becoming The Gospel

Engaged – as an act of romance, a love affair

Engaged – as work, Getting In The Fight

Prayer Engages us to Love God and to get in the fight for God.

Q. How could your conversations with God reflect more of both?