**Cornerstone Prayer Session – May 8, 2018**

**repeat from February 2012**

**Anthony Papili**

**Leader**: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

(Observe a period of silence, allowing our minds to become clear and our hearts to become open)

# Opening Prayer

**Leader:** Lord, as we enter the summer of 2018, we ask that you please be with us even more than you have been in the past. We all come under pressure everyday to make decisions, some harder than others. Some decisions come with no circumstances, while others have major life changing implications. Help us in those times where we are under immense pressure to make a decision, and regardless of the circumstances, please provide us the guidance and wisdom, to make what we know is the right decision. We ask this through Your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. --- AMEN!!

# This Evening’s Theme: Under Pressure to Do Something; Is that Something the Right Thing?

**Reflective thought –** How much does the media influence your day based on things you see and hear, maybe on TV or on the radio during your drive into work? Do some of these things truly alter your day in some way or are they simply things you hear and then forget a few minutes later as we get on with our day? For me, the media frenzy around the Penn State scandal created a knot in my stomach everyday as I listened to the reports on the morning talk show radio. It got to me so bad that I really wanted to have a prayer session dedicated to the topic somehow.

**Reading:** James 4:13-17

##### Boasting About Tomorrow

13 Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” 14 Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. 15 Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.” 16 As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil. 17 If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them.

### Romans 7:15-24

15 I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. 16 And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. 17 As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. 18 For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature.[[a](file:///C:/Users/Anthony/Documents/Cornerstone/prayer sessions/a)] For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. 20 Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

21 So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. 22 For in my inner being I delight in God’s law; 23 but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. 24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?

**Song - Under Pressure (Queen)**

Mm ba ba de  
Um bum ba de  
Um bu bu bum da de  
Pressure pushing down on me  
Pressing down on you no man ask for  
Under pressure - that burns a building down  
Splits a family in two  
Puts people on streets  
Um ba ba be  
Um ba ba be  
De day da  
Ee day da - that's o.k.  
It's the terror of knowing  
What this world is about  
Watching some good friends  
Screaming 'Let me out'  
Pray tomorrow - gets me higher  
Pressure on people - people on streets  
Day day de mm hm  
Da da da ba ba  
O.k.  
Chippin' around - kick my brains around the floor  
These are the days it never rains but it pours  
Ee do ba be  
Ee da ba ba ba  
Um bo bo  
Be lap  
People on streets - ee da de da de  
People on streets - ee da de da de da de da  
It's the terror of knowing  
What this world is about  
Watching some good friends  
Screaming 'Let me out'  
Pray tomorrow - gets me higher high high  
Pressure on people - people on streets  
**Turned away from it all like a blind man  
Sat on a fence but it don't work**  
Keep coming up with love  
but it's so slashed and torn  
Why - why - why ?  
Love love love love love  
Insanity laughs under pressure we're cracking  
Can't we give ourselves one more chance  
Why can't we give love that one more chance  
Why can't we give love give love give love give love  
give love give love give love give love give love  
'Cause love's such an old fashioned word  
And love dares you to care for  
The people on the edge of the light  
And love dares you to change our way of  
Caring about ourselves  
This is our last dance  
This is our last dance  
This is ourselves  
Under pressure  
Under pressure  
Pressure

**Thoughts for Discussion**

Doing the right thing isn’t always the popular or easy thing to do.

1. I remember during the Penn State scandal, I personally called for the dismissal of Paterno and all involved. During a discussion on this topic, someone reminded me that only two months prior to this scandal. I delivered a prayer session on forgiveness with 9/11 terrorists as the topic. What are your thoughts on this twist of forgiveness – when young innocent kids are involved? Is that any better or worse than the innocent victims that perished on 9/11 and is the ability to forgive any different?
2. Have there been times in your life when someone you knew was doing something wrong? Did you do something about it or to save the friendship and relationship, did you just turn your head?
3. Were you ever confronted with situations at work where you knew things were taking place that were not ethical or even to a lesser extent, off color jokes were being told which you knew were offensive to some of those in the present company? Did you go along with the status quo or did you do something?
4. Is it more important to you to be a good friend to your kids than it is to be a good parent? I know the answer to this seems obvious but assuming we are all doing the right thing as a parent, how does it make us feel when we see the disappointment, or even worse, the anger in our children’s words and expressions when we “did the right thing”?
5. Do you have that one childhood, high school, or college friend that is like a brother or sister to you and that you would do anything for? If so, assuming that person was doing something wrong. Could you put that deep friendship in jeopardy by calling the person out on it or even worse, reporting him/her to the authorities

**Prayers of petition and thanks/Special Requests**

**Closing Prayer**

Lord, Jesus, we pray that you will be there with us in our difficult times and guide us through the Holy Spirit to make the right decision, no matter how unpopular it may be. We all believe we know right from wrong but there will be times of weakness that we all need help. Be with us during these high pressure times and also help to make 2012 a very safe, healthy, and happy year for all of us. We ask this in your name, Jesus. Amen

**Our Father Prayer Circle**