

‘Triumph’ - Ignite our confidence in the Christ amidst this crazy culture

Our triumph’s not measuring up against secularism...Our Triumph is in trusting the Triumphant

Response to our Triumphant God: **FAST**

- **Worship: Obedience – Sacrifice – Expression of Joy**
- **Flourish Faith: Fruitful – Ability to please God, by works, because of Christ**
- **Safeguard Sanctuary: Clean House – Praise Profits – Conviction Comfort – Evangelism Exclusion**
Jim – Not Way - Hold Breath...Parents wouldn’t engage him | Mom – Worst...blackout...breathe
Prayer is to the Christian what air is to life

Things not going my way...stop praying – Father...want talk? No...long enough...spiritually blackout

Grow us in our prayer both together as a church family and as individual children of God

Breath deep the spiritual air of prayer and avoid spiritual blackout...lives depend on it!

Big Idea – Jesus is our Triumphant King: Depend on Him through Prayer

Order: Curses Tree – Cleans Temple – Back outside the city and they see the tree...

As they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots. Ans Peter remembered and said to him, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered.

I love this...Peter doesn’t ask a question...he just expresses that the tree Jesus cursed was not dead

- Why? Jesus elaborates because a crowd has gathered...no one thinking the tree was the point
Soldier comes home video’s – You got a new car...no...I’m here

Not about: cleaner temple or abundant trees...I’m here now! Access to God in a new profound way!

And Jesus answered them, “Have faith in God. Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.’ - **PRAY**

Breath the deep spiritual air of prayer and avoid spiritual blackout – Three statements with conviction

1. **I Believe Prayer Exhibits Obedience...So I Pray!**

Whoever says – whatever you ask in prayer – whenever you stand praying

What I’m going to say next is going to take a little unpacking so bear with me...

Regardless of how we feel about the effectiveness of prayer...is not the issue

God commands & we obey...and God commands we pray...God never commands what isn’t our best

Obedience unlocks the riches of the Christian Experience - Prayer makes us desire obedience

God doesn’t command obedience for obedience sake...but obedience for blessing sake

- Prayer is not merely an abstract exercise in expressing theology: Practical and Personal
 - We are both commanded and invited to pray – Responsibility and Privilege – Work and Worship
- ⇒ The all-powerful God of universe is commanding us to be in relational communication with Him
⇒ So that He can bless our sock off - Lead us and guide us - Provide for us and protect us

⇒ Asking us to breath Him in and too we hold our breath!

The answer to spiritual revival is prayer...secret to spiritual stagnation neglecting to pray

Can you say the first statement with conviction...I Pray Exhibits Obedience...So I Pray!

2. **I Trust Prayer Changes Outcomes...So I Pray!**

Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him.

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Startlingly broad & generous...whatever?!? Never has a mountain been thrown into the sea by prayer

- Hyperbole, and analogy or figure of speech intended to teach a spiritual principle
- Jewish literature, Rabbis unusual ability to solve difficult problems = mountain movers

Whatever you ask in prayer - Meaning of a word is determined by its particular usage by an author

- ‘Whatever’ – Would you like something to drink – Bring me a bowling ball and a straw
‘Whatever’ within limitations – God’s Nature and God’s Will – Not blank Check

Limit Attempting to pray while harboring unforgiving attitude against another person is self-defeating

If ‘Whatever’ has limitations...

Does prayer really change anything?

Does it change the mind of God? No | Does God change things in response to prayer? Yes!

Prayer is the means God choses to execute His will on earth

There are things God has decreed all eternity...no amount of praying can change – Return of Christ

Our prayers must not be that God conform His will to ours but our will to His

We must trust this...We Pray and God Responds!

Point = When confronted by an overwhelming issue without an apparent human solution = Pray

• Trusting prayer taps God’s power to accomplish the humanly impossible
Now...what mountain do you need moved? **Lessen the physical and elevate the spiritual**

- **Sickness...pray to be well and pray for peace and opportunity**
- **Finances...pray for work and pray for integrity and contentment**
- **Marriage...pray for reconciliation and pray for glory and joy**

We pray and God Responds

- **Esau** prayed to have his **heart** changed towards **Jacob**...God said ‘YES’
- **Joshua** prayed the **sun** to stand still...God said, ‘YES’
- **Sampson** prayed his **strength** restored...God said, ‘YES’
- **Abraham** prayed for a **son** at 100 years old...God said, ‘YES’
- **Solomon** prayed for **wisdom**...God said, ‘YES’
- **Moses** prayed to part the **Red Sea**...God said, ‘YES’

Jesus prayed for another option for our salvation...and God said ‘No’ – **GOSPEL**

No one has ever had a more profound understanding of divine sovereignty than Jesus

No man prayed more fiercely or more effectively...God, in His will and wisdom said, ‘no’

- Believers are called to pour their hearts out before God in persistent, passionate prayer, but their prayers must always be qualified by the desire that His will, not theirs, be done.
- Such prayers acknowledge that His will is greater, purer, wiser, more generous, more gracious, and more merciful than anything they could ever imagine.

When we pray, we trust not only in His power to give us what we ask but also the wisdom to give us what we need - I trust Him to turn me down if that’s His choosing
Sometimes the outcome that changes is a change in me

All answers to prayer are free gifts based on God’s mercy –

- We do not purchase answers to prayer by anything we say or do; we only plead for the overflow of mercy already purchased by the sacrifice of Christ

When God says ‘No’ do you trust that it’s better? | Trust in prayer is the proof of our dependence

Can you say the second statement with conviction...I Trust Prayer Changes Outcomes (Me)

3. **I Know Prayer Expresses Faith...So I Pray!**

It all comes down to four little words - **‘Have faith in God.’**

What is prayer saying other than, ‘I trust you’

Stronger our faith, more likely our prayers will be in union with Christ and in line with the will of God
Faith opens the door to God’s power and prayer walks through it

No one’s faith is perfect, unmixed with doubt.

- **Even weak but confident prayer in the person and power of God draws down heaven’s power**
Prayer is objectively real – a real God, real communication, real work, real answers
Usually in sermons like this you get some sort of practical application...not today

If we want to see God’s power unleashed in our lives...church...we must start praying like breathing

- Praying like our lives depend on it

Can you say with conviction...

- I believe prayer exhibits obedience...so I pray
- I trust prayer changes outcomes...so I pray
- I know prayer expresses faith...so I pray