

# Bringing Heaven to Earth: Part 5

## Empowering Through Prayer

### Pastor James Bell

What have you been looking for spiritually that you haven't seen taken place within your life yet? The Spirit of the Lord declares that He opens and closes doors that man cannot fathom. His timing is purposeful and because of your obedience, this seed will bring forth the more that He has placed within your Spirit. Because of the promise of more, His word is everlasting! Take this few moments remaining to prepare your heart for the seed. This preparation is your intentional actions that will produce the harvest to ready the multitude for His return. Harvest time is upon us.

A brief recap from our last few Sundays:

1. A Glimpse of Heaven: Understanding what Heaven is right now
2. Accepting God's will: Having a change in our thinking that produces a paradigm shift. This change brings our hearts in line with God's heart.
3. Executing Heavenly Mandates: Carrying out our greatest commandment to love the Lord God with all of our minds, soul, heart, and strength. And a second command to love our neighbors as ourselves.
4. Expressing Heaven's Virtues: The works of the flesh are opposed to the fruit of the Spirit. We learned no one that practices the works of the flesh will inherit the Kingdom of God (Heaven on Earth) and that fruit is cultivated. Fruit is not a one time event and that fruit must go through seasons of pruning, weathering, and harvest.

Today we will be placing emphasis on how prayer plays a vital role in Bringing Heaven to Earth.

### **Jesus address the position of prayer:**

Matthew 6:5-6 NLT

5 "When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. 6 But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

The first thing Jesus addresses is praying with the wrong motives. Praying to be seen or for recognition. I'm sure that we have all heard that one person that always seems to pray the perfect prayer and their words flow with boldness and authority. And we

probably thought to ourselves, “I wish I could pray like that”. And I’m not saying that the person did it to be seen or recognized. If you know the person well enough then you most likely know what type of anointing they walk in. Our prayer must be from the heart. It’s not about how long you pray but how often you pray.

Since Jesus was addressing wrong motives then we must identify what wrong motives are. In Matthew 6:5 “5 “When you pray, don’t be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get.” Prayer for a reward. This is what the hypocrites are after. They are looking for recognition but they pursuing something more for themselves. They are seeking their desire over God’s desire and this is labeled as “self-idolatry”. And this has become the prayer of so many people. I’m not saying it’s wrong to pray that God’s blessing will overshadow us, but from the facet of always praying in this manner. If we are always pursuing what God can do for us instead of what we can do for God, then our prayers are in the form of idolatry. Self-seeking prayers.

Jesus said we are to pray in a manner of humility. When we are alone in His presence, there are no other voices and nothing vying for our attention. There is not an expectation to meet or qualify for when we are alone with Him. Just humility and an open heart. Our humility puts us at His feet.

And Jesus was tested with this message that He preached.

Hebrews 5:7–9 NLT

7 While Jesus was here on earth, he offered prayers and pleadings, with a loud cry and tears, to the one who could rescue him from death. And God heard his prayers because of his deep reverence for God. 8 Even though Jesus was God’s Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered. 9 In this way, God qualified him as a perfect High Priest, and he became the source of eternal salvation for all those who obey him.

Our fear or reverence for God guarantees that our prayers will be heard. When we fear God it’s not about if we received what we prayed for but is His will being done on earth as it is in heaven. Jesus reflected this.

Matthew 26:36–44 NLT

36 Then Jesus went with them to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and he said, “Sit here while I go over there to pray.” 37 He took Peter and Zebedee’s two sons, James and John, and he became anguished and distressed. 38 He told them, “My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.” 39 He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, “My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.” 40 Then he returned to the disciples and found them asleep. He said to Peter, “Couldn’t you watch with me even one hour? 41 Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!” 42 Then Jesus left them a second time and prayed, “My Father! If this cup cannot be

taken away unless I drink it, your will be done.” 43 When he returned to them again, he found them sleeping, for they couldn’t keep their eyes open. 44 So he went to pray a third time, saying the same things again.

Notice Jesus isolated Himself and turn off the noise and distractions. Notice that it wasn’t how long He prayed but how often He prayed. And what were the words He prayed? Does our prayers sound like this. How will we bring heaven to earth if our prayers don’t sound like God’s will to be done? Jesus expressed a fleshly desire but He did not allow it to over ride the heart of God. Jesus learned to obey God through suffering. And suffering removes the impurities of a sinful and selfish expectation.

### **Jesus addresses how we are to pray:**

Matthew 6:9–10 NLT

9 Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. 10 May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

This is not the prayer we pray but how we should pray. Notice Jesus said, “Pray like this”. Not quote these words. Jesus gave us the model of what our prayer should look like. The example of communing with our Heavenly Father. And our approach must be in reverence. The Lord’s Prayer begins with reverence for God because our respect for Him flows from understanding His holiness. This isn’t incidental positioning—it’s foundational to everything that follows.

The word “hallowed” derives from the Greek term meaning “different” or “separate,” indicating that what is holy stands apart from all other things. In Hebrew thought, a person’s name doesn’t merely identify them but conveys their nature, character, and personality as revealed or known. When Jesus instructs us to pray this way, He’s directing us to recognize and honor God’s essential being before making any requests.

Praying “Hallowed be Thy name” elevates you to a new level of respect for God and reverence for His person, as you ascend into the very heart of God to recognize who He is and what He has done. This positioning matters profoundly: when you begin with this phrase, you’re not rushing into God’s presence demanding something, nor are you preoccupied with your sins or your ability to pray—instead, you enter recognizing who God is, His position, and what He can do.

As we recognize our proper place before God, His will and desires become our will and desires, rather than approaching Him with our own agenda seeking His blessing upon it. This reorientation—placing reverence first—fundamentally transforms the entire prayer from self-centered petition into God-centered alignment. Everything else in the prayer flows naturally from this initial posture of awe and submission.

Recognizing God’s holiness then prepares our heart for what is next. Bringing Heaven to Earth! Seeking for His holiness to be present in this right now moment. This feeling

of surrealness in the mist of reverence of all that is holy. This understanding changes our persona of prayer. The paradigm shift that Jesus wanted Peter to understand at the Garden of Gethsemane. The reprove, rebuke, and exhortation of “the flesh is weak but the spirit is willing”.

### **Jesus addresses the persistency of prayer:**

Luke 18:1–8 NLT

1 One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up. 2 “There was a judge in a certain city,” he said, “who neither feared God nor cared about people. 3 A widow of that city came to him repeatedly, saying, ‘Give me justice in this dispute with my enemy.’ 4 The judge ignored her for a while, but finally he said to himself, ‘I don’t fear God or care about people, 5 but this woman is driving me crazy. I’m going to see that she gets justice, because she is wearing me out with her constant requests!’ ” 6 Then the Lord said, “Learn a lesson from this unjust judge. 7 Even he rendered a just decision in the end. So don’t you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? 8 I tell you, he will grant justice to them quickly! But when the Son of Man returns, how many will he find on the earth who have faith?”

Persistence wears out resistance. This cannot be applied if our prayers are self-centered though. This petition is for bringing heaven to earth. Seeking for God’s will to be done in every and all things.

Let’s pose this rhetorical question, Has our prayers been off key? Has our prayers indicated self-centeredness? Have we been prayer our will or God’s will? Pastor, how will I know if I’m praying God’s will? Easy answer...it will align with His word. Jesus prayed in this manner. Jesus prayed the word of God. As we recall back to the three times Jesus prayed in the garden, “Lord your will be done”. Jesus brought Heaven to Earth through His prayer.

James 5:13–18 NLT

13 Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises. 14 Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven. 16 Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. 17 Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for three and a half years! 18 Then, when he prayed again, the sky sent down rain and the earth began to yield its crops.

We just spoke in the reference of hardships last week. James said during these hardships we should pray. Prayer offered in pray produces God's will.

Prayer requires Faith and Faith requires Prayer!

Verse 16b. The earnest prayers of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. But I like the way the Amplified version says it:

James 5:16 AMP

16 ... The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working].

The consistent and persistency of our prayers for God's Kingdom to be establish on Earth just as it is in Heaven opens the portal of God's sovereignty to be accessible to all we come in contact with.

Matthew 7:7-8 NLT

7 "Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

Our prayers must be continual. Notice the three areas we are to operate in.

1. Ask: Plead for, request, intercession, interceding
2. Seek: Search for, pursue, strive to find
3. Knock: Grabbing the attention of, a means of signaling one's presence to those inside.

Jesus said to "Keep on". This means not to give up. We are seeking for Heaven to be brought to Earth.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 NLT

17 Never stop praying.

- Prayer derives from Message
- Message derives from Commune
- Commune derives from Communication
- Communication drives from Interact

Prayer is interacting with. But the question is who are we interacting with? If our prayers are one sided then we have not interacted. Prayer is purpose to be a dialog, which means a two way conversation. This conversation must be in the reference of

asking, seeking, and knocking. This means He will ask, seek, and knock in His response to us. Are you leaving time in your pray closet for Him to interact with us. If we are not then our prayers are one-sided. To bring heaven to earth we must be praying and also listening.

Let me pray with you today!