

**3 John**  
**Why My Prayers Go Unanswered**  
**Pastor JD**

KAPONO: Would you join me in prayer? Heavenly Father, we can't do anything without You, Lord. We thank You, Lord, that You give us strength, Lord. I just pray that we would continue to look to You in those times when we need it, Lord, and continue to look to You in those times when everything is just going fine, Lord.

In other words, every single time, Lord, would You just draw us near to You, keep our eyes focused on You, especially with everything that's going on, Lord. And we know that You're coming soon, Lord. Thank You for this time together in prayer. We pray in Jesus' name.

PASTOR JD: In Jesus' name. Amen and amen. Good evening to you. Welcome. You can be seated. Glad you're here tonight. Those of you online, this is a special prayer meeting. We don't usually livestream our prayer meetings, but tonight we're going to do something a little bit different.

I had spent some time seeking Lord about tonight's prayer meeting in particular, and I sensed that He would have me to briefly share about prayer and specifically as it relates to some of the reasons that prayers will oftentimes seemingly and inexplicably go unanswered. Much of what I want to share with you tonight is just some things over the years that God has taught me about prayer in my own prayer life. So I just want to share those with you briefly.

Afterwards, we'll enter into a time of prayer, and we're going to pray specifically for the many missions' outreaches and also some other prayer needs as well. So let's get to it. I want to share — by the way, I should probably say that I have 18 of these. I narrowed it down. It's not an abbreviation. I mean, it's not — I didn't condense it. I abbreviated it. So I got it down to eight. I know on Sunday I said seven, but I just couldn't keep it at seven. So I got it to eight, though. So we're going to go through them.

These are eight reasons as to why it is that sometimes it seems like your prayers just kind of bounce off the ceiling. You know what I'm talking about, where I mean, sometimes it's even so bad that the more you pray, the worse it gets? You ever had that happen? All right, let's get to it.

First reason, and these are not in any particular order. But this would seem like a firm grasp of the obvious. And it's a verse you know well, the second part of *verse 2* in *James 4* about

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not asking God. I mean, that's the number one reason for having a prayer unanswered: the prayer was unasked. James says, **“You do not have because you do not ask God.”** Some of your translations render it, **“You have not because you ask not.”**

Now, oftentimes people will respond with something along the lines of, Well, why do I need to ask? God's going to do what God's going to do anyway. So why do I need to pray, and why do I need to ask?

At the risk of an oversimplification, here's an answer, one of many: Prayer changes the prayer. That is a play on words. There's something that happens when we go to God in prayer and ask and pray effectually and fervently and even specifically.

God wants us to ask Him. Because when we ask, He, as we're going to see, answers and hears from on high and harkens unto the voice of our cry. So the number one reason: We don't ask. Simple? Maybe too simple.

Number 2, this is a biggie. It's in the next verse. I have wrong or selfish motives, *James 4:3*. So even if you do ask — **“you have not because you ask not,”** but **“when you ask, you do not receive because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.”**

In other words, your heart's not right, your motives are not right. You're approaching God, you're asking God for something that is selfish, and God's not going to grant it to you. You're, I'm sure, doubtless familiar with that quip. I share it often.

It goes like this: If the request is wrong, God says, “No.” If I'm wrong, God says, “Grow.” If the timing is wrong, God says, “Slow.” But if I'm right and the request is right and the timing is right, God says, “Here you go, go.” So God sees the heart. And so when we ask, our heart has to be right. When we ask, our motives have to be right in what we ask in prayer.

Number 3. See, we're doing pretty good, huh? Now, this one is going to require a little bit more time for what I think are reasons that you'll see here in a moment. Sometimes our prayers don't get answered because we don't pray and fast.

Now, whenever you start talking about fasting, people get weird. And I think that's due in large part to our misunderstanding of what fasting is. It's humbling yourself, denying

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yourself, drawing nearer to God, and every time you have a hunger pain, it's just a reminder that you're denying the flesh. And fasting sometimes is needed in addition to prayer.

And I want to draw your attention to this account. I kind of need to give you the backstory. It's in *Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 17*. I'm sorry for seeing the humor in it, but the disciples have just unsuccessfully tried to cast a demon out of this guy's son. And I don't know what they did to this poor kid, but they could not get the demon out.

So the dad, in desperation, brings his son to the Savior and says, fine disciples You have! They couldn't get the job done. They couldn't cast the demon out of my son. Will You please cast this demon out of my son? And of course Jesus does.

Now you've got these bewildered disciples who are going: What in the world just happened here? And we pick it up in *verse 19* when we're told, **“Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, 'Why could we not cast it out?' So Jesus said to them, 'Because of your unbelief. For assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, [And I want you to listen very carefully, verse 21] this kind [This kind] does not go out except by prayer and fasting.”**

There are those times in our lives where, yes, there is the need for prayer, but the situation is such that it rises to the level of needing both prayer and fasting. I tell you, if prayer changes the pray-er, fasting changes the fast-er. Is there a better word than fast-er? Well, just insert it then.

This fourth one, we're going to just move very quickly on. It's husband specific. Guys, I tried. You probably have as well. I cannot find anywhere in Scripture where the way the wife treats the husband is connected to his prayer life. But for the husband it is. And we just studied *1 Peter* not too long ago, verse-by-verse, and I'm not particularly fond of *verse 7 of Chapter 3 in 1 Peter*, which my wife has on the wall in a plaque framed on her wallpaper, memorized, put to song.

Anyway, guys, **“Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives...”** Some of your translations, very interestingly, render it as **“dwell with them in understanding.”**

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It's a very interesting word in the original that is not used very often in the New Testament. It's more than just be understanding or considerate in dwelling with them. It carries much more of a meaning in the original and it's not captured as well in the English as it is in the Greek.

But it's husbands, the way you treat your wives, **“treat them with respect as the weaker partner [Not inferior] [They're wired differently] [They're built differently physiologically] and as heirs...”**

They're co heirs, joint heirs with you. They're on an equal playing field with you. In the eyes of God, you're not superior to them. They're not inferior to you. You are joint heirs, but they're the weaker vessel.

Emotionally be more sensitive **“...as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life...”** Of course, speaking of eternal life. And here it is. And oh, or how I wish it didn't say this. **“So that nothing will hinder your prayers.”**

Translated: Husbands, If you're not living with your wife this way, loving your wife this way, treating your wife this way, your prayers are going to be hindered. And it's almost like this: Husband, you're praying. You need to get it right with your wife. You're out of fellowship with your wife. You're mistreating her and not loving her as I love the church and gave My life for her. So you're coming to Me with this prayer, but your prayers are hindered now because of that, how you treat your wife.

Now, wives, lest you get really excited here, the Proverbs, I'll remind you, are replete with — it's not mistreating your husband, it's nagging your husband, being contentious, a contentious woman, so much so that your husband has to eat a crumb of bread on the rooftop instead of the prime rib that you've fixed for dinner inside the house with you because you're so contentious.

And then as you go further into the Proverbs — come on. I'm trying to do an equal thing here just before we move on. It's only fair.

So I mean, this poor guy, you start off earlier, and as you get later into the Proverbs, he's no longer — even the rooftop isn't far enough. Now he's in the wilderness eating that crumb of

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bread. It's better for — (Chuckling) than to eat, you know, a beautiful dinner, you know, prime rib, even spicy ahi poke — I'm sure is in the original — with a contentious woman.

And by the way, I know we've talked about this. It comes up every time we partake together of communion. Well, not every time, but there's — it's so missed.

And by the way, Thursday night is communion. After the Bible study, we're going to do *Ezekiel 35-36* Thursday night. But there's a bond that takes place, an intimacy when you're breaking bread with somebody to this day in the Middle East. That's why it is so important when it comes to that. But guys, if your prayer life seems like it is ineffectual, inconsequential, you might want to revisit how it is that you're treating your wife, as her husband.

Number 5: I am not in His will. Again, might seem like a firm grasp of the obvious at first read, but I want to draw your attention to *1 John, Chapter 5*, beginning in *verse 14*. **“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, [What is it that we can have confidence in Him?] if we ask anything [Anything] according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.”**

Jesus said — I forget — I think it's in Luke's gospel — that if you ask anything in My name, according to My will, compatible with My nature and brings it the Father glory, you got it, man.

Anything?

Yeah! If it's according to My will, for My glory and your good because **“Every good and perfect gift comes from the Father above.”** *[There's no changing of His mind, no shifting of shadows.]*

He's going to give it to you. Probably one of the most profound and even pronounced promises in all of God's word is found in one of the most profound chapters in all of God's word, *Romans Chapter 8*. And it's very interesting the way the Apostle Paul's inspired to couch the question because the question is this: If God was unwilling to withhold from you His only begotten Son, is there anything that He would withhold from you? Why would He not give it to you?

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How about the time when Jesus draws the comparison to the earthly fathers being evil and wicked and fallen? And when your children come to you and ask you for gifts, if they ask you for a fish — I hope I'm getting this right. I'm a little rusty. Is it the fish? What is it? A stone? Well, which one's the snake? Is that the fish?

Let's just go fish / snake, okay? Just indulge me. I think it's bread / stone. Maybe we're safe with bread / stone? But snake is a lot — sounds a lot — got more punch. If your child comes to you and says, “Father, will you give me bread?” And you give him a stone — you're not going to give him a stone. If he asks you for fish, you're going to give him a snake?

How much more your Heavenly Father is going to give you what you ask Him for? I mean, you're wicked and you're fallen, but yet you're still going to give good gifts to your children. How much more will your Heavenly Father?

Picture your Heavenly Father at the ready, just waiting. Just ask Me. If it's good for you and it brings Me glory, I'm going to give it to you. Why wouldn't I? If it's according to My will — What, I'm going to say, “You know what? No.”

No, He — notice how John — and we just finished John, didn't we? **“If we know that He hears us.”**

So we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. In other words, God hears every prayer. And by the way, He answers every prayer. It's not: Does He answer prayer? It's: Do I like the answer? Because He's going to answer your prayer in one of three ways: “Yes,” “No,” or “Wait.”

Sometimes I would rather — I'm just — I'll speak for myself — I would rather have a “no” than a “wait” because I hate to wait. I would almost rather have a “no” because then I'll just come back, you know, I'll just revise it to get a “yes.” Don't give me a “wait.” Really?

Yeah, that's the answer.

So He always hears your prayer. He always answers your prayer. Now, even further so, if it's according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask we know that we have.

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Yeah.

Okay, He heard my prayer, and now it's according to His will, so whatever I ask from Him in prayer, knowing that it's according to His will, I know that I can have it?

Yeah, but the problem is, it may not come when you want it. And that goes back to the “slow.” And by the way, it's been said God is never late, nor is He ever early. And truth be made known, you don't want Him to be early either. His timing is always perfect.

I look back in my prayer lists that I've had for many years, so many prayers that I, you know — and you know exactly what I'm talking about — you thank God that He didn't answer that prayer, that way, at that time. It would have been catastrophic. It's almost like when you prayed it, God's like, “No, don't — you don't want Me to do that. You'll see.”

So you go back on it, and You thank God, it's been said, for the prayers that He didn't answer almost as much as you thank God for the prayers that He did answer. But if it's according to His will, if you're praying according to His will, He's going to answer that prayer, and He's going to give you what you asked for.

This sixth one, a little convicting. So we'll move very quickly on this one, too. I'm full of pride. This is *James 4:6*. Listen to this. **“But He gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”**

Well, wait a minute. That doesn't say anything about prayer. Okay, what's the context? Because a few verses later — there were no chapter breaks in the original manuscripts — a few verses later, we know it as *James 5:16*, says, **“The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man, [Not our own righteousness but Christ's imputed righteousness] avails much.”** [*Accomplishes much*]

So it's in the context of praying. And then even Elijah, our friend Elijah is brought into the picture. He was a man just like us. And he prayed it wouldn't rain. It didn't rain. He prayed that it would rain. It did rain. And he was just like us.

But what's the common denominator? Humility. So you're going to come to God with an attitude of pride, a heart full of pride? Do you think God's going to answer? You're already in opposition to God, and God is already opposing you because of your pride.

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But let's flip it around. He gives grace to the humble. So if I'm praying, and I'm harboring pride in my heart, God's not going to answer that prayer. The Proverb says, **“He knows the proud from afar off.” “He resists the proud.”**

He's repulsed by pride.

Why?

Because God himself is humble. Have you ever thought of it like that? God is humble. And it's like, I can't — you're praying, and you're so full of pride. Get away from me. I'm not going to hear that prayer. If you're proud, if you're full of yourself and full of pride, God is opposing you. So try praying. How's that working out for you? Okay, I'm really convicted.

Number 7. Now I'm even more convicted. This is a biggie, by the way. Sometimes prayers go unanswered because I've sinned against someone else. Now, this passage in *Matthew's Gospel Chapter 5* is intense, for lack of a better word. You know it well. I think if we're honest with ourselves, it's one of those places in God's word — it's the words of the Savior himself — but they're so powerful and so convicting, not condemning, convicting, that you kind of stay away from them.

And when you do read through the Bible and you come to *Matthew Chapter 5*, you usually try to get through it pretty quick and read through it fast. Let's pick it up in *verse 23*.

**“Therefore [*Jesus speaking*] if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First, be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”**

Well, here again, Pastor, it doesn't say anything about prayer.

Excuse me. They had the altar of incense, the altar of prayer. You're offering your prayer at the altar, and you remember — here you are. Look at you all spiritual and everything, and you know that something's not right between that brother in Christ, that sister in Christ, you better go make it right.

In fact, if you read on, it gets even worse. You better do it now. Leave your offering, your prayer at the altar, go make it right, and then you come back, and we'll talk. But if you've got a problem with someone, a brother and sister in Christ, or they have a problem with you,



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and it's unresolved, don't even bother. Like, I'm going to hear that prayer, receive that offer at the altar of prayer when you've 'got ought against' your brother or your brother or sister 'has ought against' you.

I'm going to take it one step further. Why not? How about when we withhold forgiveness from another? And then here we are, we're asking God, "God forgive me."

Oh, really? Oh, really? I'm going to forgive you? Have you forgiven them?

The parable, again, very powerful: You got a guy — we're just going to paraphrase this for purposes of illustration — he owes this guy \$1 million, and he goes to him, and he says, "I can't pay you." And the guy is merciful to him and forgives him his debt of \$1 million. So what does this guy do? He goes out, he finds a guy that owes him 100 bucks. And he can't pay him. And he beats him up, puts him in debtor's prison.

The guy that just forgave him \$1 million catches word of it. Says, Come here, boy. Excuse me. I just forgave you of \$1 million, and you're not going to forgive this guy that owes you 100 bucks?

I mean, "**Lord, forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who have trespassed against us.**" That goes both ways. If I withhold forgiveness and don't restore fellowship, then how can I expect forgiveness and fellowship and intimacy with the Lord in prayer?

Don't underestimate this. We've talked about the seriousness of how we treat our brothers and sisters in Christ. Ask the Corinthian church about how serious this was in the sight of the Lord. It rose to the level of them being put on a bed of sickness and even some of them going home to be with the Lord early because of how they were sinning against and not discerning the body of Christ, how they were treating their brothers and sisters in Christ in the early church. This is not to be taken lightly.

Jesus goes on to say to do it quickly before it costs you everything. Because you're giving the devil a foothold. And he will take everything he can get. And he'll stop at nothing and do everything as long as we permit him that foothold, that entrance.

You know, the — I think it's the Apostle Paul to the Ephesian Church, says, "**Don't let the sun go down on your anger.**" Because if you do, you're giving the enemy, the devil, a foothold.

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**“Don't let the sun go down on your anger.”** Resolve it, settle it, settle the matter. Agree to disagree agreeably.

Well, listen, in as much as it is possible for you — I mean, sometimes they're just not willing. But you've done what you were commanded to do. You've done everything you could. They're unwilling to reconcile. They're unwilling to restore the relationship. But that's between them and God. You've done what you needed to do between you and God. Now come back, and let's talk. Come back to that altar of prayer.

Lastly, number 8. I ended with this one, again, not in any particular order, and it's something we've talked about in the past, but it's probably — well, for me personally, again, this particular parable is unique by itself because Jesus tells you what the meaning of the parable is before He teaches the parable. I think it's a first. It may be the first and only time that He tells you this is the meaning of the parable I'm about to teach you. And then He teaches the parable.

And it's all about persistence. We effectually refer to it as the parable of the persistent widow. And it's in *Luke 18*, and I want to read *verses 1-8*. **“Then He [Speaking of Jesus] spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart.”**

That's the point of the parable. That's the lesson of — that's the take-away. Never, ever, ever give up. Tenacity in prayer, persistence in prayer, keep asking, keep seeking, keep knocking.

By the way, that's in the original. “Ask, “Seek,” “Knock.” It is better translated: Ask, keep on asking; knock, keep on knocking; seek, keep on seeking. So He teaches this parable about never losing heart, never losing hope, never giving up, always persisting in prayer tenaciously.

So *verse 2*: Here's the parable. **“There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. Now there was a widow in that city, and she came to him, saying, ‘Get justice for me from my adversary.’ And he would not for a while, but afterward, he said within himself, ‘Though I do not fear God nor regard man, yet because this widow troubles me...”**

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Pesters me, keeps texting me, I block her, and she gets a new number and persists in texting me, demanding justice. And the only way out — this is, by the way, this is not — I'm going off text here. The only way I'm going to get rid of her is to **“avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.”**

Oh, you weary me so, woman. Stop. I can't take it anymore! You're at my door every day, all day. You're on my newsfeed, my page, my social media platforms every day, all day. Just go away! Here, here's your justice.

I know that's a very dramatic way, but that's basically the point of the parable. Now listen to how Jesus brings it all together. **“Then the Lord said, ‘Hear what the unjust judge said. And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily.**

*[And then He says this, and there's no getting away from this.] Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?”*

There's something about that verse that basically sums it all up. **“According to your faith let it be done unto you.”** Now stay with me. She never gave up. She had faith that eventually she would get justice, the justice, the just justice from an unjust judge if she just persists, and doesn't lose heart, and doesn't lose faith, and doesn't lose hope. Have you ever thought of it like this: Prayer, by its very nature, is faith. If you didn't have faith, why would you pray? I mean, is that too much of a simplification, an oversimplification?

The very fact that we would pray is an act of faith because what we're saying is **“Faith, being the substance of things hoped for, the evidence [Strong word] of things yet not seen or unseen.”**

That's faith, just to pray. Could we also say that the reason why maybe people don't pray is because they don't have any faith, and the people who do pray are the ones who do have faith? And the people who pray persistently and tenaciously have this faith that says, “You know what? I'm hanging in there. I'm going to keep banging on this door.”

And here's Jesus trying to teach this principle about don't lose heart, don't give up. Because if an unjust judge will do this, how much more will your Just Judge, God in heaven, avenge you and give you justice?

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So what's the point — and I'll close — what's the point in persisting in prayer? (Stumbling over words) I mean, on the face of it, it could almost be interpreted, misinterpreted, really, as being cruel.

Why would God make you, you know, have to go through all of that? Why doesn't He just give it to you the first time? If He's going to do it, why make me keep coming back, and why make me keep having to persist?

Because again, and I hope this is not an oversimplification, but I just, from my heart in my own prayer life, it's like my Heavenly Father saying, "It's not for Me. It's for you." Because when you persist in prayer, it does something for you, in you, to you, when you persist in prayer tenaciously.

Because what is it doing? It is building your faith. And when you pray specifically, and then God answers the prayer — by the way, we're going to talk about that Thursday night. The title of Thursday night's study in *Ezekiel 35 and 36* is: "How God Does What God Does." In other words, God will do what God does in such a way that it is unmistakably Him. This persistent widow? When we persist in prayer and we don't lose heart, and then God answers that prayer in His time, in His way, and for His glory, what does that do to your faith? How much does that build your faith, your trust in Him?

It's for you. It's to build your faith. He's all about building your faith. Well, that's just some of the reasons. There's again — I had 18. I was merciful with just eight. But I hope in some way we're all encouraged to continue to pray in such a way that our prayers no longer go unanswered.

And one last thing. I'm learning in my own prayer life that prayer is simply talking to God. Please, if you heard nothing I said in what I shared, please hear this: Don't complicate prayer. It is talking to God, and God talking back to you through His word.

That's all prayer is. You don't need a formula. You don't need to enter the outer courts first, get past the veil, you know, go to the holy of holies, ohm. You know? No, sometimes it's just, Father, Baba, Abba, Daddy.

That changed my whole prayer life years ago. My only regret was that I didn't do it sooner. That's how I know it's always a good decision when your only regret is that you didn't do it

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sooner. It's so seemingly small, but it made such a big difference in my prayer life when I just started calling my Heavenly Father Baba, which is the Arabic for Abba, which is the Hebrew and the Aramaic. We would say, Papa, Daddy. It just changed the whole complexion of my prayer. I'm talking to my daddy. You know who my daddy is? I would just say, Baba.

And sometimes I'll pray out loud because I'm oratory and, you know, it has to go through the ear gate. **"Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God."**

When you hear, even just reading the word of God, you read it out loud, so it goes in through the ear gate. Praying out loud is — I pray when I walk. Not prayer walking; that's not even biblical. I'm you know, when I just walk and I just talk to my Father in heaven, Baba.

And I don't inform Him. I used to; I used to always like update Him, you know, apprise Him. Okay, so on Tuesday, Baba. And He's like, Excuse me, we can save a lot of time here. I'm all-knowing. I know all about it.

In fact, I allowed it because I needed to hear from you. And so good to hear from you again. It seems like the only time you ever call Me is when something like this happens. Don't you think I'm on to that? So I allowed it to happen so we could talk. We haven't talked in a while. It's good to hear you. Good to hear your voice again.

So you just cry out to Him. And sometimes those prayers are not even so much words. Charles Spurgeon called tears "liquid prayers." Sometimes it's just a moan. Sometimes it's not even that. It's just a cry from your heart. And God hearkens unto the voice of your cry, and He hears your prayer. It's simple. Don't complicate it.

Okay, I'm done. I didn't do too bad. Actually, I didn't do too good either. I'm going to have Pastor Mac come up, and this time we're going to just have a time of prayer. We're going to start with Nepal. And I've asked Pastor Mac to come up and pray for the mission's team, the medical mission's team, who are, as you know, currently there.

They will return on Saturday, December 16th. By the way, these are the updates, right, for the Nepal? If you haven't got one already, that's the most recent one. And so I'm going to have Pastor Mac pray. And he has the update.

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PASTOR MAC: Blessings to you all. Peace be multiplied. So as we all know, we have ten individuals in Nepal right now from our local area: Wally and Maura; we have Adele, Kennedy, Doreen, Chris, Patrick, Kimo, Jeanette, Trevor, and Tom. There's others there as well serving in Nepal in these specific missions, healing and doing various other activities, as the Lord leads.

The update states there's a couple of areas of prayer that they requested, and one of them is as they reached Nepal in one of their areas as of late, some of the members have become sick a little bit. And they want us to pray specifically for their healing and also for God's covering to ensure no others succumb to sickness.

In addition to that, Nepal has very windy roads, and the terrain is very arduous, and they're asking to pray for their safety as they continue the mission. So for all of them, we'll pray to that specifically as well as what else the Lord places on our hearts to pray. So just join with me as we pray for this mission team in Nepal.

Father in Heaven, we thank You so much and give You all the glory for all that You continue to enable us to do. You have these saints who have been called by You to do Your bidding in Nepal.

And Lord, the enemy, as often as he does, has set a few on a bed of sickness. But You're the great physician that we all know and cleave to, and we pray that You would just heal them speedily, instantly, so they can continue to do what You have called them to do without being held up or slowed down.

We also ask, Lord, that You would meet them, go before them, and give them safe passages through all the terrain that they have encountered and will encounter. And Lord, we ask that You would just supernaturally guide them, keep them safe, front to back and on each side, Your heavenly host protecting them every step of the way.

And may Your name be glorified in all of Nepal. Everywhere they should tread their feet may the name of Jesus be lifted up, and may You be glorified. And Lord, we thank You for these saints. We know You will protect them and keep them and bring them back safely here so we could get the full report on what You have done in and through this mission team by the power of Your glory.

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We thank You now, and we know You will do this. We'll wait for the good report in faith. And we ask this all in the mighty name of Yeshua, Jesus the Christ, we do pray. Amen. Thank you.

PASTOR JD: Okay, Now I'm going to have Artie Kendall come up and pray for Steve White in the Philippines. You may not know this, but actually Steve was Artie's neighbor for many years and Artie's — Artie. You're Artie. You look like Moses, though.

[ Laughter ]

Isn't he cool looking? See, if I did that, I would look like a terrorist. Anyway, is that too much?

So Steve's father is Artie's neighbor and comes to the church when his brother able to bring him. Anyway, so I've asked Artie to pray for the Philippines.

ARTIE: Steve White is administering two schools in the Philippines in Boracay. And these two Christian schools, they have a K-12 as well as some collegiate-level schooling, as well as some pastoral training. And they have over 900 students.

And he is very much so doing the Lord's work down there and through some very adverse scenarios. I texted him yesterday and asked him exactly what he needed urgent prayer for. And he said that — oh, it's regarding the earthquake that they had, that they were basically untouched.

So there was no major damage. There was no casualties or anything. So praise the Lord for that! He's said there was absolutely no — nothing of any consequence regarding either one of the schools.

As far as prayer requests, he asked, that: "We are in need of building permits to add fourth floor, a fourth-floor roof to our Jubilee School in Boracay. The building department has misplaced our drawings, and our copies were burned during a village fire that burned the school in 2015."

So if any of you have ever been through the building department, the permitting process, you might well imagine the difficulty that they're facing there. He says, "Therefore, we need new drawings and new building permits. And please pray that we are able to hire the right

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civil engineer for the job and that they would be able to complete the new drawings quickly.” So that's their urgent need. So if you please join me in prayer.

Father, please, we hearken unto You to — we lift up Steve and his mission work in the Philippines in Boracay. They're in need of these building permits. They need a civil engineer, and they need the drawings.

But in reading his request, I'm thinking, You know what, Lord? You have a better idea. You're going to bring them something better than they even have now, or that they're even planning. So I'm thinking that You probably allowed this to happen so that You could flex Your muscles, so to speak, and show them exactly what is capable with some faith.

So we reach up in faith, Lord. We lift up Steve in faith, and we reach to You in faith that this prayer will be answered and answered mightily, only as You can. We ask that if there's any other further natural disasters, that they would be spared.

I, in previous conversation with Steve, he also told me that he's in desperate need of some administrators for the school. So please raise up people in that regard. They're also doing some community feedings. Please bless all efforts that they're doing because they are doing all to bring You Glory, Lord. And that's all.

Steve and his family are just the most humble people. And I ask that they'd be blessed in a way that brings You glory because he is going to find greatness in Your glory, Lord. And that's all he asks for, not for himself, not for his family, but for You. And that's what he revels in.

So please, Lord, if You could please just answer this prayer as we know You will because You're a faithful Father. And we ask this in the name of Your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

PASTOR JD: Thank you, Artie. That's good. You know, it's been said God directs your steps and your stops. Sometimes He closes doors only to open up a better one. So now I want to invite JB and Team Japan to come up. Go ahead. I showered again today just for you guys. We're actually going to have four of them come up: JB, Mai, Ayumi, and Yuko. Yuko's from Waimanalo, and Ayumi is in Pearl City. And you heard JB — come — get —

[ Laughter ]



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You're killing me, you guys. Come on. JB and Mai: You heard their testimony. How amazing was that? When we had JB — by the way, JB reminded me that when we had her here, it was two-and-a-half-years ago, already. Two and a half years! That's what I said.

So anyway, when we had JB with us that Thursday night, Mai watched it and reached out to — I think — did you email us wanting to connect with JB? And then as it turns out, as only God can, right, they live 5 minutes from each other. I love it when God does that!

Anyway, I asked them if they would come up again tonight, and they have graciously agreed. Because what I want to do is I just want to pray for them, their ministry, and the people of Japan.

So is that okay? All right. Do you want to pray in Japanese, though? No? I thought — you have not because you ask not.

[ Laughter ]

So just thought I'd ask. I asked. You said no. Not according to your will? That's fine. Hey, let's pray for these precious sisters. Come on up here, and let's pray for their ministry and outreach and the people of Japan.

Father in heaven, we're just so humbled, so honored to have these precious sisters with us here tonight. And, Lord, we're so grateful to You for that which you've called them to and the ministry they have in reaching the people of Japan. It's so rare.

There's a famine in the land in Japan, a famine of Your word, a spiritual famine. And even the churches that are there, they're not preaching the word. And so Lord we want to get the word to the people of Japan about Your soon return, the good news of salvation found in You, Jesus, and only You.

So, Lord, I just want to pray for them. And my brothers and sisters here are in agreement with me as I do. For strength, for encouragement. Lord, would You bless the work of their hands as they do this as unto You, not as unto man, that You would extend their reach to the far reaches of Japan? Lord, would You use them mightily, even now as You are for such a time as this?

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And Lord, encourage their hearts too. Keep the enemy at bay and away, and any discouragement or anything that the enemy would use to hinder the work that you've called them to because certainly the enemy is not happy about what they're doing in Japan and for Japan.

So Lord, bless them. And again, when I pray encourage them, Lord, just that what they're doing is making a difference, even though we don't have any way of knowing this side of glory. But, Lord, that their treasures are many. Encourage them with the treasures that await them for that which You've called them to. And thank You so much for them. Lord, what an honor it is to co-labor with them in this, Your ministry for the people of Japan. Bless them, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Do I get one last hug? Thank you so much. We love you guys so much. Thank you. You guys going to be here Thursday night too? Yeah, I won't make you come back up Thursday night. I don't think so, anyway. Yeah, praise the Lord!

[ Applause ]

Are they just the most precious or what? Okay, now we've still got work to do. Let's go to Israel. I want to pray for both the Jews and the Arabs in Israel and Gaza and even, actually, the Arabs in the West Bank.

For those of you that are familiar with the geography of Israel — by the way, the population of Israel, 20% are Arabs, and the majority of them are Muslims. And so we have teamed up with and financially support a ministry, One for Israel.

I spent quite a bit of time vetting them, and they have many different ministry outreaches, one of which is humanitarian aid, especially now after what happened in Israel with the attacks from Gaza.

They also have a very unique ministry. It's actually IDF discipleship. And what this is, is these are the military men and women — by the way, everyone in Israel, a citizen of Israel, serves in the IDF, Israeli Defense Force. And these are young men and women, Jews and Arabs, by the way. Did you know that?

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And some of them are believers, our brothers and sisters in Christ. So One for Israel has a discipleship program where they disciple these brothers and sisters in the IDF. And pray for the IDF right now, especially because of everything that's happening there. And also, they have an Arabic outreach.

And obviously, this is close to my heart. But they bring the gospel to the Muslims. And this is a very delicate evangelistic outreach because you have to understand the cultural dynamics when it comes to Islam. But they're reaching the Muslims for Christ, so much so that it's not just the Muslims that are coming to Jesus, but it's also the Jews coming to the true Jesus, their true Messiah.

So right now, Israel is a, for lack of a better way of saying it, a hotspot, and it's definitely a prayer point. And we want to just now pray for them. If you would, please join with me.

Father in heaven, thank You so, so much that we can reach all the way from here on Oahu to Israel and to Your people, the Jewish people and the Arab people there in Israel. Lord, even now, just the war, the casualties, the lives that have been lost, the Jews that have been butchered, the families completely gone, and even the Arabs that are there as well, Lord, they're all souls that You love and that You died for.

And we want to pray for them. We want to pray that You would reach them, that You would save them, those that are saved, that You would protect them. Lord, that You would minimize the loss of life. These are souls.

Lord, we pray that they would not enter a Christ-less eternity for all of eternity, but that they would find You, that You would reach them, save them at this time, with everything that's going on. I know that many are turning to You just by sheer virtue of what's happening there.

And so, Lord, please, we pray for Israel, we pray for the Jews. We pray for the Arabs in the Gaza Strip. It's just a horrible place. And those Arab people there are trapped. Nobody will take them. They want them there in Israel.

And so, please, God, just the human suffering and the human life. And then for the Jews there in Israel that have become victims of what's happened, Lord, would You remove the blinders from the Jews' eyes? Would You remove the deception from the Arabs? They're so

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deceived. Would You bring these precious people, Jew, Muslim, Arab, bring them to You, Lord, in and through this? We pray and thank You in Jesus' name. Amen.

Well, let's come back to Hawaii and go to Maui. Let's pray for Maui, specifically Pastor Steve Santos and Calvary Chapel Westside in Lahaina. Before we pray, I want to just — I want to share — I'll share a text that he sent me as an update. It's not good. And we really need to pray and pray specifically.

So before I came tonight, I had to go to the post office. I had to. And I had to stand in line. And I'm standing in line, and I'm not exaggerating and because I'm so patient, I actually had to stand in line for like half an hour. And I'm watching these — and I'm praying, Lord, these people behind the counter — man, do you know what they deal with on a — one of these people that was in front of me, man, they were like, “Why don't you have more people out here? Where's everybody? Look how long the line is.”

I'm like, “No, really, Lord, really?” So I had to pray for them. (Grrr!) And then I prayed for, you know, these postal workers that have to deal with that. You know, they're just doing their job.

And there was this one lady, and she had a flower in her hair, a local gal. Her name is Joey. And she would always say to everyone as they got to her, “Can I help the next person that's ready?” They always say that, right?

Translated: If you're not ready, move to the back of the line. That's a whole other issue. That's why everybody is still in line for half an hour. But anyway... So she goes, “Thank you for your patience.” I was ready for it because I knew she was going to say to me. I was ready. “I said, No, thank you. Thank you for what you do and what you have to deal with on a daily basis. I don't know how you do it.”

And so I just have this priority envelope. Can I just — I just want to mail it. I'll pay you whatever you want. Just here you go. I need a tracking number, and thank you very much. And then she hands me the receipt. She says, “You know, there's a place where you can, you know, do a survey.” And I told her, “Thank you. I will.” And I do. And they get those, by the way.

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And so next time I go in, which will probably — the rapture will probably happen before I do that. I'm going somewhere with this. I'm just taking you on the scenic route. Bear with me. The next time I go in, if the Lord should ever present that opportunity, maybe she's going to notice something different about me from all the other customers. And who knows? Maybe she'll ask me, and I'll have an opportunity to give to her an answer of that hope that lies within me. Because if she doesn't know Jesus, she needs Jesus.

So anyway... but I'm standing there, and I'm looking — I had plenty of time — I'm looking around, I'm going, man, this place buss up. The Kailua Post Office — I mean no disrespect — but I'm just like, it's all run down.

You know, Thursday, by the way, January 7th, Pearl Harbor Day, our Bible study, it's the 20-year anniversary of when I moved my family to Hawaii to start this church. We moved on Pearl Harbor Day. We got on a plane on Pearl Harbor Day and moved to Hawaii on December 7th of 2003. So Thursday's our 20-year anniversary.

But I remember when I used to go into that same post office, and it was nice. Now, fast forward to today, and not only is the place buss up, the people are buss up. You know, come on, let's be honest. We people watch, right?

So I'm looking around at people because I'm praying for them. Lord, it's very simple; Lord, if they don't know You, would You bring somebody into their life so that they'll come to a saving knowledge of You because they need You. And I just pray for them, especially the ones that are (Grrr). You know? They really need Jesus. Lay hands on them, not in a good way either.

I'm just standing there going, "Wow, forgive me, Lord." I bet the people in Lahaina would love to be standing in line in their post office. I was brought down, man. I mean, the Lord just laid me bare before Him.

Here I am like, Man, this place is all buss up, and you know, seems to smell old now. And look at the people. They're all buss up, you know, and they're — everybody — everybody's on edge.

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I remember saying that to somebody one time back in the beginning of this whole, you know, satanic ritual abuse. I said, "You know, man, people are on edge." And the person behind the counter said, "People are on something."

No, for real. I mean, everybody's just like, (Hissing cat sound) you know? And I just think, "Wow, Lord, I bet the people in Lahaina..."

And I was so convicted, and I had to repent right on the spot and ask God to forgive me. And all of a sudden, that post office was beautiful. And those people that were all buss up; they're beautiful people now. And the Lord really did a work in me today.

And I think He made me go to the post office because it had to be mailed today. Can't do it tomorrow. It has to be today. So I think the Lord had me just for that reason because He had to remind me of how much we take for granted.

Of course, I already had Pastor Steve's text in my hip pocket, so to speak. So I want to share with you just a little bit of what he sent me as an update on what's going on.

He says, "hundreds of people, families these last few days have and are being moved out of the hotels in Lahaina, Kaanapali to dot, dot, dot, question mark, mostly other side of the island, some to Maui Beach Hotel, and others still just temporary places. They came with busses to pick people up and relocate them.

Some are angry. Some are humble. All are confused and afraid, not knowing where they will attempt to live next. *[They have nothing] [They lost everything]* Please pray for our leaders and those in authority that they would seek God. He is the only one with an answer, and He is the answer for every person's greatest need. The only thing that keeps us going is knowing that God has a purpose in this, first and foremost, that the people of Lahaina would turn to Him for their salvation.

Pray for the people that make Lahaina, Lahaina. Knees on the ground is still our greatest need. And then pray for us. Calvary Chapel Westside."

So let's do that. Would you join with me? Father in heaven, we're mindful tonight of our brothers and sisters on Maui and those especially in Lahaina, and what they must be dealing with is just unthinkable for us. And here we are just taking everything for granted. We take

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everything for granted, and they have nothing to take for granted because they've lost everything.

So, Lord, first, maybe forgive us, would be our prayer. And Lord, as Steve has asked us to pray, would You, as only You can, just that supernatural strength, a baptism of the Holy Spirit, a renewed power of the Holy Spirit, just to get through one day at a time with everything that they're going through, what they wake up to every day, what they go to bed at night with every night.

Lord, for these people that have been displaced and being picked up in a bus, how terrifying is that, just alone that? You have no place to live, no place to go. Lord, please use this to bring these people to You. That's how it happens. We know that. It's in just unthinkable, horrific circumstances that people will surrender and bow and come to You and surrender their lives to You.

Jesus, it's when You're all we have that we realize You're all we need. And we'll never know that You, Jesus, are all we need until You, Jesus, are all we have. And You, Jesus, are all these people have. Will You reach them?

For Steve and Kim, and their daughter Nicole, and their grandkids, and their church, and their elders, and the people that are just hanging in there and they don't want to leave Lahaina, that's their home, that's their town, they're Lahaina people, and they're being forced out and relocated?

Lord, for those that are trying to stay, would You just miraculously part the Red Sea and provide a place for them? Lord, would You comfort them by the Holy Spirit? How downcast they must be. What despair they must be in.

My wife — this kind of just came to my mind — my wife was sharing with me that there was a report that 13 more people took their lives in Lahaina. Just the suicides, where people just give up hope. Jesus, please. Please, Jesus. We're begging of You, pleading with You. Would You please reach these people? Lord, get to these people, Jesus, so that these people can get to You, Jesus and find salvation in You, Jesus.

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Lord, only You can take something this bad and bring good from it. You promised do so. You can work it out for the good. You can take that which was meant for evil, and You can make it for good, for the salvation of many. So that's our prayer.

I pray for my brother, my friend Steve Santos. God, I really don't know how he does it, but would You just supernaturally strengthen him for what he has to deal with on a daily basis? It's just too much. But You're sustaining him, God, as only You can. Will You do that for my brother and his family and his church? We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Okay, one more, and it's of a personal nature, and then we'll close with this. After much prayer and consideration Kellie and I made the decision to ask for prayer as she has been battling breast cancer.

I hope you know that we're not seeking pity, only prayer. We've known about for several months. And it seems to be an aggressive form of cancer by virtue of it already spreading to the lymph nodes.

We didn't go public with this back in the summer because we, quite frankly, didn't want any unnecessary attention on us. As many of you know, my wife's a very private person. And I'm not particularly fond of the spotlight necessarily either. I love people. I just don't like the notoriety that comes with what God's called me to.

That was really behind the decision back in 2019 to disenfranchise from and decline kindly, graciously, the invitations to speak at these conferences. I just, I don't like — that's not my world. I'm uncomfortable in that environment.

You know, even just, you know, being behind the pulpit, it's kind of embarrassing sometimes on a Sunday when we have so many online visitors. I'm so humbled but overwhelmed and even embarrassed by — you know, some of them will say things like, you know, we made a special trip because this was on our bucket list. We just — and then they want a picture with me, and I hate pictures of me. But whenever I see the picture, I always look to see how I look in that picture.

So anyway, I'm digressing here, but you'll forgive the levity. But one thing my wife and I have never lost in all the years we've been together, we've been through quite a bit in our 35 years of marriage, 37 years together. We courted for two years.



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And you know, when our daughter died, it brought us closer together, and we were already close. And so this has had the same effect. It's brought us very close together. But the one thing we've kept through all of this and are keeping through all of this is our humor because it's medicinal, right? "Laughter is medicine to the bones." Yeah.

And she's a trooper, man. She's a fighter. Sometimes I think I'm taking it harder than she is. She's amazing. She actually, for those of you who know, my wife, she continually reminds me that I'm to keep my hands to the plow and preach the word, as I'm so privileged to, in this His church. So I've just done that.

And we're trusting the Lord. I mean, He's brought us through so much. Of course, we're asking God for a complete healing and there to be no cancer, and for that to be done miraculously. We're also keenly aware that we have, you know, decisions to make, some of which are going to be very serious and important decisions.

But I did want to let you know this tonight and ask you for prayer. I will be taking some time off starting on Monday, December 11th. I will return, Lord willing, and "if we're still here," and that's a big "if," by the way. If we're still here, I plan to return on Tuesday, January 9th, which is our next prayer meeting, by the way, not January 2nd, which is the first Tuesday of the month, but it's the day after New Year's Day.

So we're going to have our prayer meeting on January 9th, and I will return, Lord willing, for that. I'm leaving you in the very capable hands of Pastor Leitu and Pastor Mac who will be filling in for me during my absence. By the way, please pray for Pastor Leitu because as you know, he's recovering from his second knee replacement surgery. I told him, "Hurry up."

[ Laughter ]

"Come on, already. Enough, already. Because I need to take some time off. I need you, man."

So he said, "I'm trying, I'm trying."

So anyway Pastor Leitu will be teaching on Thursday nights. Pastor Mac will be doing the Sunday morning services. And I will be in the pulpit two more times: this Thursday,

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December 7th, as I mentioned prior, for *Ezekiel 35 and 36*. We're going to take them together, and it's communion as well.

And then I'm also going to be in the pulpit on Sunday, December the 10th for both the Prophecy Update and then — by the way, we finished 3 John, right, last week? So I didn't want to start Jude knowing that I was going to be taking some time off. It's short, but I still didn't want to start it and, you know, have to start it back up again.

So I'm actually going to be doing a topical teaching on Sunday for Second Service. The Prophecy Update is still First Service. It's actually going to be part 2 of “Expect the Unexpected” because of what's happening right now in Dubai with COP 28.

But then Second Service, I'm going to do a topical teaching titled, “What to Do When You Don't Know What to Do.” I'm getting good at these titles, aren't I? It's out of 2 Chronicles 20 when Jehoshaphat is up against this impossible situation. And he doesn't know what to do, and he prays, and he says, **“Lord, we don't know what to do, but our eyes are upon You.”** So that's going to be Second Service, just a topical teaching out of 2 Chronicles 20. So please pray.

Lastly, before we close in prayer, I do want to thank all of you, and I really mean this, and the Lord knows my heart. This is an amazing church. You are a loving church. You're a giving church. You're especially a praying church. And I just want to say thank you, both to you locally and also the online church. You have made the pastorate a joy.

This is not a farewell speech. So I know it's kind of getting that way. I better quit while I'm ahead if I am. Not many pastors can say that, by the way.

And I was just talking with my wife. We have — man, just our time together in the mornings. Just this morning, we were just talking about how that — in fact, it was Artie was sharing with us about how that, well, you just happen be the pastor and wife of a church that prays and that has seen many miracles along the way.

You know how many people that are with us today that shouldn't be, that were told, you know, stroke, heart attack, cancer? I mean, I could start going down the list, start naming the names. I mean, just for years we've seen God do miracle, miracle healings as the Great Physician. And I just am very grateful to you. I love you all so very much.

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And I thank you for being such a loving and a praying church. And I know that you love me. I know least you like me. And I know you love my family. I know you love my family. And it shows. And so thank you. And just pray for my wife and pray that, specifically, that God will heal her. The Lord knows my heart on this. I need my wife, and Lord knows that. So that's my story, and I'm sticking with it.

So anyway, Kaponu why don't you to come up? Why don't you stand up? We'll close in prayer. And again, thank you very much. Father in Heaven, we're again, just humbled, grateful, just even that we have each other. We have this church, we have prayer with which to come to You with anything, with everything. What would we do without prayer? What would we do if we couldn't pray?

So, Lord, we've brought much to Your throne of grace tonight with a holy boldness and confidence, as the writer of Hebrews says, "In our time of need." And in approaching Your throne of grace, we found mercy and help because You're a merciful God. So, Lord, would You hearken unto voice of our cry? Would You hear from on high and move Your mighty hand on our behalf?

And Lord, for my precious wife, please, would You keep her for me and me for her? Keep her for our children. Lord, do a miracle. Remove it completely, no signs of any cancer cells anywhere whatsoever, as only You can.

And Lord do it in such a way that it's unmistakably You, so the medical community, with all due respect to the medical community, that not one of them could ever take the credit, that You alone would receive all the glory. Do it in such a way so that You are glorified. Heal my wife, please. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.