

**Topical Message**  
**When I Rightly Pray in the Wrong Way**  
**Pastor JD**

KAPONO: Would you join me in a word of prayer? Lord, You are so good, Lord, and we thank You so much for this time that we can gather together, Lord, and to learn from Your word and Lord, to pray. Bless this time together.

And thank You so much, Lord, for the rest that You have given to our pastor, Pastor JD. We thank You for bringing him back to us, Lord. So be with the teaching this evening and be with all of us as we are here. May we be blessed by the teaching and through prayer, Lord. We ask this in the mighty name, Jesus, we pray. Amen.

PASTOR JD: Amen and amen.

[ Applause and cheering ]

You guys are too kind. You can be seated. I missed you. It's great to be back. I was really looking forward to the prayer meeting tonight. I had an amazing time. I'll share a little bit more, probably on Sunday morning. But I just don't know how the time that we had together as a family could have been any better than it was. And only God could do that.

So thank you for your grace. I know you were in the very capable hands of Pastor Leitu and Pastor Mac. And so, you know, I know I can do that and not many pastors can, but what's really cool is that when as a pastor, as the senior pastor, when I leave, attendance goes up. So it's kind of like stay away and just, you know, things will go better, and there's less problems, which I take very personally because that means that I'm the source of the problems. So now that I'm back, all the problems come back. And so anyway, enough of my problems.

Hey, you know, I want to share concerning prayer with you tonight, and I want to share specific to a life-changing truth that the Lord has opened my eyes up to recently. And by recently, I mean my time out of the pulpit. Just in my time together with the Lord, I'm just in prayer in the Word, just with the Lord, alone with the Lord, that quiet solitude. And the Lord just opened my eyes to something that I want to share with you, and it's that of how it is that we may set out to rightly pray; however, as good as our intentions may be, we rightly pray in the wrong way. Let me explain.

Oftentimes, we may unknowingly pray in the wrong way by way of what I'll refer to as peripheral prayers. And by peripheral prayers, I mean we're only scratching the proverbial

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surface in the sense that we don't get beyond the surface of the issue in order to get to the core of the issue.

Here's an illustration. I've used it before. You take an over-the-counter pain reliever and it's for temporary relief — it's only temporary — and falls woefully short of identifying the source and then subsequently curing the ailment that's causing the pain. In fact, if anything, it's masking it, delaying the inevitable. And sometimes that's what our prayer life can be like.

So I know what you're thinking right now because again, remember, I can read minds. Great. Thanks a lot, Pastor. You've told us so many times that prayer is simple. Don't complicate prayer. Thank you so very much. Welcome back. You just made my prayer life complicated again. Well, I have good news for you. The Lord knows that while our prayers may be wrong, our hearts are right. Because He sees the heart. Man sees the outward appearance. But God looks and knows and sees the heart, so much so that He's not only accounted for it, but so too has He also made provisions for it because of it.

What I'm hoping to accomplish in our time together tonight is explain why it is that just a simple change in how we pray can change everything when we pray, and this for a number of reasons, not the least of which is that specific prayers yield specific answers. And if you'll kindly allow me to, I want to take us on a brief journey through the scriptures that speak to this simple truth. And it is a simple truth.

And yes, prayer is just simply talking to God. It's not complicated. But it's a simple truth, if and when applied will change your prayer life. And if you change your prayer life, you'll change your life. Can you make that connection? You want to change your life? Change your prayer life. And by default, if you change your prayer life, you'll change your life.

Let's go to *Romans 8*. I want to begin reading in *verse 26*. **“In the same way, [Paul writing] the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.”**

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That is good news. Because you know how it is when sometimes you don't know how to pray, how you ought to pray, what you need to pray for? And here comes the Holy Spirit indwelling us, helping us in our weakness, in our inability to pray, know what we ought to pray for. And these are prayers that are not words, but groans. I mean, that's all that comes out.

And watch this. And you'll forgive the way I'm going to try to illustrate this. But it's kind of like, oh, you're groaning, oh, Lord! And then the Holy Spirit translates it, and He intercedes, and He takes that groan, that moan, that "Oh!" and He says, Lord, JD, what he means is... and He puts it to words for us, instead of us.

So we've got the Holy Spirit interceding for us. And oftentimes, it's not the eloquence of prayers, and we don't really know how to express our prayers. And this, again, is where many have gotten into trouble when it comes to their prayer life because they think that by their many words their prayers are answered, and nothing could be further from the truth. Sometimes it's even, as one said, liquid prayers, where you're just, I mean, you're not praying with words, you're just weeping with tears and moaning with groans because — and that's when the Holy Spirit comes in, rushes in, and intercedes for us.

It gets even better. We're still in *Romans 8*. This time, verse 34. Rhetorically asked this question, the Apostle Paul, **"Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life— is at the right hand of God and [Listen] is also interceding for us."**

Wait, let me see if I got this straight. So I got the Holy Spirit indwelling me, interceding for me. And I've got Jesus, the Christ seated at the right hand of the Father, and He is also interceding? What was my problem again? Listen, when somebody says, hey, I'm praying for you. Thank you. That means so much to me, and I sincerely mean that. But you know what? You know who else I've got praying for me? Jesus and the Holy Spirit and they're interceding.

Listen to *Hebrews 7:24-25*. **"But He, [Speaking of Jesus] because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who**

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**come to God through Him, since *[Here's why] [Listen]* He always lives to make intercession for them."**

Even now, as I am speaking and you are listening — you're listening, right? Okay. He is making intercession for us. He is taking our prayers, as faulty and frail as they may be, and He fine tunes them and intercedes on our behalf.

Now, we still have a problem. Even though we know that God will fine tune our prayers when they're in the wrong tune so by the time they reach His throne of grace they're tuned to the right key, we still have a problem.

And the problem is that knowing this is that one may say, well, then why bother to pray? If Jesus is interceding at the right hand of the Father for me, and the Holy Spirit is interceding, who is indwelling me, well then, I'm covered.

And perhaps you've heard it said, maybe you've even said it yourself, or thought to yourself, well, the Lord already knows what I need, so why do I need to pray? I mean, why do I need to ask Him for that which, as an all-knowing God, He already knows? He already knows my need even before I knew my need and he already knew what my prayer would be before I even prayed it. So why bother?

Okay, we need to deal with this. I know this could be an oversimplification, but this problem is resolved when one understands that, and I love this, as one aptly stated it, prayer changes the pray-er. Never think for a second that God needs us to pray.

One of the things that I remember as an early young Christian, early on, I heard a pastor say, "You need to pray more!" (Painful sigh) Wow. God needs me to pray. It's kind of like when you hear that evangelist at the end of a broadcast. "We need your support to stay on the air. You know, God needs your money." Actually, no, He doesn't. And actually, if you don't have enough money to stay on the air, maybe you should not stay on the air. Prayer's a get-to not a got-to.

Can I bring it into the context of a family relationship? Imagine, parents, if your children were like this. (Annoyed sigh) I've got to spend time with my father! Really? That's okay. I don't want it to be like that. No, I don't need you to pray, God would say. But you need to pray, God would say.

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Well, yes, God, but You already know what I need. You're interceding for me. You're tweaking my prayers as ineffectual as they seem. So what's the point?

No, the point is, is that by praying, it's going to change you. And this is the simple change in how I pray that can change everything when I pray. Now, isn't this something we know? We know this, but we need to be reminded of it.

I'll speak personally for myself and candidly. I needed to be reminded of my own propensity to pray about external symptoms while neglecting, even ignoring the internal problems. Stay with me on this. I'm praying peripheral prayers about, you know, oh, Lord, bring them to salvation. Oh, Lord, Your healing touch on them. These are peripheral prayers which are only directed to the outer, and sadly, at the expense of the inner.

And what makes this a problem in our prayer life is that what's always at the core is always a core spiritual issue, and there is absolutely no exception. Did you just hear what I just said? We're praying rightly, but in the wrong way. We're doing the right thing the wrong way.

Because see, we're approaching it on the surface, and we don't realize that we're approaching and praying in a physical way about a spiritual problem. Because we have to peel back all the layers to get to the core issue. You know, sometimes when you think you've resolved something and then it rears its ugly head like five minutes later and it keeps coming up. You've not resolved it. You've only temporarily addressed it, but you've never gotten to the core issue.

Why? Because it's a spiritual issue. That marriage problem. It's a spiritual problem. That financial problem. It's a spiritual problem. Without exception the core issue is always spiritual, and as such it must be dealt with spiritually.

*2 Corinthians 10.* Listen to the Apostle Paul, verses 3 through the first part of *verse 7*. **“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, [What are strongholds?] [Things that have a stronghold on your life.] casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.”**

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I'm going to take a breath and then read the first part of *verse 7* because listen to what Paul writes — asks this question. It's rhetorical again. **“Do you look at things according to the outward appearance?”**

Translated: Do you pray about things based on merely the outward appearance? Are you praying about a spiritual problem using carnal weaponry? Did you know that prayer is your most powerful weapon?

We're going to get to *Ephesians 6*. This is very popular these days. It's sad because it's been taken way out of context. It's the very well-known passage about the armor of God. Armor up! The spiritual armor.

I want to draw your attention to *verse 12, Ephesians 6*. **“For we do not wrestle [Can I say pray?] against flesh and blood, but against [And here are four entities with different rankings] principalities, [These are municipalities] [They rule over certain areas or things] against powers, [These are entities that have been given a larger measure of power] against the rulers of the darkness of this age, [These are leaders and rulers in higher positions] [And then the fourth one] against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”** [Even higher]

You see the hierarchy here? So again, stay with me. We pray against flesh and blood. We labor in prayer. We wrestle in prayer. And we're investing all of this time and energy praying about the wrong thing. What we should be praying about and wrestling against is not flesh and blood, but those spiritual entities.

Because remember, your issue, your problem, the core issue is always spiritual. You resolve the core spiritual issue and everything else goes away. The issue is always spiritual because it's a spiritual battle in the realm of the supernatural. It's arguably one of the most dramatic examples of fighting a spiritual battle with carnal and physical weapons, and it's one that I know you know. I love it, and maybe not for the right reasons, I'll have to confess. It's in *Luke 22*, beginning in *verse 47*, when Jesus is arrested. No need to fear. Peter is here to save the day.

We're told, *verse 47*, when Jesus was arrested prior to the crucifixion in the Garden of Gethsemane, **“While He was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called**

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**Judas, one of the 12, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss Him, [Interesting] but Jesus asked him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?” When Jesus’ followers saw what was going to happen, they said, “Lord, should we strike with our swords?” And one of them...”**

Oh, by the way, Luke doesn't tell us which disciple it is You know who tells us which disciple it is? John tells us it was Peter. Peter! **“...struck the servant of the high priest...”** And Luke’s very polite. He's a doctor. He's got great bedside manners. He doesn't tell us the name of the high priest, you know, the servant of the high priest that got his ear cut off by Peter. His name is Malchus.

And so what does Peter do? And this is after they ask the question. See, this is a spiritual, prophetic, powerful, profound, life-changing event that will alter human history for the rest of human history.

And here's Peter: I got this, Jesus. Do You want me to use my sword? Hey, I took a little bit of martial arts. I could do some of that. And he doesn't even wait for the answer. He just takes his sword and...

This really happened. Can you please use your God-given imagination and go to this place with me and imagine the chaotic scene that would have ensued? They're going to arrest Jesus, exactly as was prophesied.

Jesus isn't fighting back, going, no, you're not going to arrest Me. I'm the Son of God. I could just — I don't even need to snap My fingers. I can have the whole host of heaven down here right now. You guys — in fact, some of them, they fell.

They were — I'm not going to say slain in the spirit. Be careful with that one. The only time that you see people slain in the spirit— there's a couple, a husband and wife by name of Ananias and Sapphira. And it wasn't — it's because they lied to the Holy Spirit. So they were slain in the spirit, and God killed them in church.

That would get people's attention. Could you imagine being a visitor that day? Go to church. Whoa! These guys are pretty serious about stuff. But the soldiers fell back. They were just laid out because they were in the presence of Jesus. That's how powerful the

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Spirit's presence was. And you want to take your sword and try to fight a spiritual battle with a physical weapon?

And then this poor servant of the high priest, he was on duty that day. You know, he just showed up for work. He had no idea what was in store for him. So his ear is cut off by Peter. And again, thank you, John. I don't know. You had a weird relationship and friendship with Peter. But he fills in some of the blanks and says that Jesus just healed Malchus' ear.

If I'm Malchus, I'm getting saved right there. We'll see. I really believe we'll see this Malchus in heaven and we're going to go, Oh, dude, what was that like, man, when Peter did that and then Jesus like — and then — it's not in the narrative.

Verse 51 says, **“But Jesus answered, “No more of this!”**

Stop! What are you guys doing I know your heart's right, but what you're doing is wrong. This is a spiritual battle and batter too — battery. But Jesus touched the man's ear and healed him. I mean, it doesn't say that He picked up the ear. Who knows where it went? He just touched him and a new ear. Boom! He's healed and saved. I'm just like you are God incarnate. You are Lord and Savior. I give my life to You. Thank You for my ear back.

What's your point, Pastor? Well, before you come down too hard on Peter, which many do. I'm just as guilty. We do this. This is a spiritual battle, and we're pulling out our worldly weaponry, carnal weaponry. We're looking in our arsenal, the armory, the toolbox if you prefer. We're looking for something, anything with which to use in this battle that we're in.

And we're just like Peter, I would venture to say, if you're anything like me, and I suspect that you are, you got a lot of ears from a lot of Malchus' laying around all over the place that you've cut off trying to fight a spiritual battle with physical weaponry. I think if we're honest with ourselves, we would all, myself included, myself especially, have to admit that we have this innate proclivity to do this: spiritual wars with worldly weapons.

Here's a question, and please know I ask it of myself, and I've inquired of the Lord concerning many prayers. You know, I journal. I have a prayer journal. I also have a very — well, I if I don't say so myself, I have a very impressive prayer list and it's very well organized, you know, charted out and mapped out and hyperlinked in Excel and all the color — I color coded. And then it's, you know, anyway...



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I've been doing it for many years. I can go back, in fact, sometimes — I don't recommend it for the faint of heart, but you go back, and you look at prayers you prayed like ten years ago on your prayer list, you're like, Oh! You know, you've heard it said, thank You, God, for the prayers You did answer. But thank You, God, for the prayers you didn't answer! Had You answered that prayer that way, it would have been catastrophic.

And God's up here like, I know. That's why I didn't answer it. I mean, you were right to pray, but it was the wrong way. I couldn't answer that prayer. And aren't you glad? Yes. Thank You so much.

In my prayer list, too, I have many prayer requests that I've changed. I've changed the way that I entered that specific prayer on my prayer list because, well, quite frankly, the way I was praying, it wasn't working anyway. I didn't have anything to lose. Maybe I'm going about this the wrong way. God's going, Ya think?

So I, you know, delete, change, tweak, add, fine tune, adjust, edit. And lo and behold, God answers the prayer. Why didn't He answer the prayer before? Because it's like trying to give a right answer to a wrong question. How can you give the right answer to a prayer that's wrong? Let's get the prayer right first before we can answer it.

So here's the question. And again, I ask it of myself. Could it be that this may be one of the main reasons your prayers continue to go unanswered? They're just not quite right yet. "Yet," keyword.

And it's a process too, by the way. Because see, when we pray, something changes in us. And oh, by the way, God likes to hear from us too. I mean, the only time you call is when you need something. Which is why God will allow need in your life just so He can hear from you.

I haven't heard from you for a while, JD. Good to hear your voice. You only call when you need something. So I allowed this need so you would call upon Me. How are you doing? Long time no talk.

See, it's not that God won't answer my prayer my way. It's that God can't answer my prayer my way until He changes me and my prayer according to His will and His way. And this is what I mean by the process. And sometimes it's a painful process. It's an arduous process,

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but you grow in grace because of that process. Because again, prayer changes the pray-er. Prayer changes you. It changes you.

Here's the bottom line. And I want you to think about this because I cannot imagine God would ever respond to a wrong prayer by saying, (Buzzer sound) No. You still don't got it right. Come back when you get it right and we can talk.

No, God wants us to pray. And He wants when we pray for that prayer to be the right prayer. So He's going to do whatever He can to help us to pray the right way. I mean, God wants this more than we want this. God wants to change me vis-a-vis changing my prayer life.

I'm very fond of this quip. I've shared it often. It goes like this: If the prayer request is wrong, God says, no. If the timing is wrong, God says, slow. If I'm wrong, God says, grow. But if the request is right, the timing is right, and I'm right, God says, go.

So here we are. We're praying, rightly so, but it's the wrong timing. It's the wrong request. I'm wrong. So we've got to change. That has to change, and it needs to be made right before it can be answered.

I'll bring it to a close with a couple of practical examples of how to rightly pray in the right way. And please, I hope this doesn't come off wrong. I don't want it to sound like I have arrived. I have found the secret to a powerful prayer life.

Ha! Are you kidding me? I've been walking with Jesus for over 42 years. I still, when it comes to prayer, I'm like, oh God, help me! I don't know how I ought to pray. I know the Holy Spirit intercedes for me. Jesus is at the right hand of the Father, ever lives to intercede for me.

But here I am. I'm praying, and sometimes I keep praying fervently and consistently and continually, and it seems like the more I pray, the worse it gets. What's up with that? What am I doing wrong, God?

Well, consider this. Example one: Instead of praying that a loved one will stop doing what they know they shouldn't do, pray that God takes the desire away to do it.

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Conversely, example number two: Instead of praying that a loved one will start doing what they know they should do, pray that God gives them a desire to start doing it.

You see what I mean by the peripheral prayer as opposed to the precision prayer? You're getting to the core, so you don't just stay on the surface. Lord, make them stop doing that.

No. Lord, take the desire away from them to do that in the first place. Lord, make them start doing that. No. Lord, put that desire in their heart so that they'll start doing that. You know, the prayer requests we get are mostly for someone's salvation or someone's healing for some physical ailment.

Those are the top two, right? Let's talk about praying for somebody's salvation. Peripheral prayer. Here's what that sounds like. Lord, please bring them to a saving knowledge of You. That's a peripheral prayer. Let's get more precision. Lord, — let's get more specific — Lord, send that perfect person into their life at the perfect time from whom they can receive so that they will surrender their life to you and get saved. Do you see the difference? One's peripheral, the other precision.

Let's talk about praying for somebody's healing or somebody to recover from some physical ailment. Lord, heal them, restore them. How about this? Lord, direct the perfect physician to them at the perfect time and then give them that supernatural wisdom from above to correctly and properly diagnose the problem and treat the ailment so that they're healed and recover. You see the difference? Peripheral and then precision.

Okay, one more, one more thing. This one's hard. Just bear with me because it's something that the Lord has been — and He's gentle when He does — but He's really been convicting me about this, ministering to me about this very personally, very powerfully. I wrongly pray about other people, when instead I would do well to rightly pray about myself. Hang on. I'm not talking about selfish prayers. Me, me, me prayers, I, I, I prayers, gimme, gimme, gimme prayers.

I'm not talking about that. No. I'm talking about, praying about — and we say, I'll pray for you. Sometimes we're praying about them or even against them. God...

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Well, I'm not going to take that any further. But here's God in His grace, in His mercy, listening to me pray about them as if to say, They're the problem, God! Take care of them. And that's how we pray. We're praying, presupposing that the problem is them.

And here's God, going, they're not the problem. You are! How's that? I'm praying for this problem, but they're not the problem. I'm the problem causing the problem while praying about the wrong problem. That's the problem. How's God going to answer that prayer? You can't.

How about this? I rightly pray in the wrong way when I assume that that's the problem. I'm trying to help God. And also, please don't misunderstand me. I'm not talking about instructional prayers.

Do you know what instructional prayers are? That's when we pray and then we give God the instructions on how and when and the way to answer the prayer. God, here's my prayer. Now here's the instructions. Insert tab A, slot B. Answer: C.

You know, listen, God already knows. You don't have to inform Him. God, you know what? Last Tuesday, you know when...

I was there. I'm omnipresent, I was there, I know all about it. I actually knew about it before you were even formed in your mother's womb. How about that?

So you don't need to inform Him. Just get to the point, okay? Not that He's busy. You know, I've heard people say, God, I'm not going to pray for a parking spot at Costco Iwilei, so I don't have to park in Ewa Beach and then shuttle or something. I mean, God's busy. I mean, my goodness, He's got a whole world and universe, you know, deal with. He's not going to...

No. There's no prayer too small for God to answer. Sometimes I think God is thrilled to answer those seemingly small prayers. But don't waste your time trying to inform Him or instruct Him. Lord, can I get a parking spot? preferably it would be in section C up front, you know, next to a, you know, car that's not going to ding my car.

No. Just pray. Prayer's not a monologue. It's a dialog. You know what I mean by that? It's not a one-way conversation. Lord...

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And by the way, when you pray — I think we're going to see this in Daniel, coming up. Oh, man! So looking forward to *Chapter 5* and *Chapter 6*, Lord willing, next week.

But when Daniel prays, he asks for nothing, and he thanks God for everything. I would have done the opposite. I would have asked God for everything and not thanked Him for anything. That's *Philippians Chapter 4*. So please don't cannibalize your prayers, if I can say it like that, by just petition prayers.

Certainly, there are those times to petition the throne, present your requests, oh God, I mean, and go down that list. But sometimes God wants to be hallowed and praised and adored and worshiped. You know, that's what worship is. It comes from two words: 'worth' 'ship.' This adoration of God, this awe of God, this thanksgiving to God.

And then I love the acronym. I totally stole it. Acts, A-C-T-S. Boy, sure hope I can remember this. A is for — this is the — I don't want to complicate prayer. This is just a template.

Adoration, starting off, adoration. The C, confession of sins. The T, thanksgiving. And the S, supplication, or presenting every request.

That's a good template for prayer. Starting off with — well, that's the way the Lord taught the disciples to pray when they said, **“Jesus, teach us to pray.” “Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.”** This adoration, this worship and then the confession of sins. **“Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.”** Did I get that backwards? I probably did. Let's just say I didn't. Just let me have it. And then you get into the thanksgiving and then the supplication, when you just petition the throne.

But when you do, listen because God's going to respond. It's not that God doesn't answer prayer. God will always answer your prayer. It's that we may not like the answer that He's going to give us, especially when it's no.

No? It's either going to be yes, no or wait. I hate wait. I almost would rather have a no so I can go back to the drawing board, come back with a different approach, try to sell Him on plan B. But when He says wait, now I'm stuck. I gotta wait.

But you got your answer. Now, how are you going to know what the answer is to your prayer unless you listen to what the Lord is going to answer your prayer with? And then the number one way He's going to answer your prayer is by His word.

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Because if you're praying for something or about something that is inconsistent or unbiblical, it's not going to happen. Sometimes you'll pray, and what I do — this has served me well over the years — I pray with my Bible software program open, sometimes my Bible open. But I can't read it anymore. The font keeps shrinking. So I can expand, you know, this computer screen, big 37-inch screen. Oh, now I can read it. But the Lord will direct me and speak directly to me through His word. I pray, oh God, I need wisdom on this. And then I'm directed to a proverb. And there's my answer.

I want to end with this and leave you with this, but — and again, this is hard. Because more often times than not, and more than I would care to admit, I'll be praying and God will direct me to His word and it's a prophet, Nathan, to a king. David, **“You're the man.”** You're the problem. You need to deal with this first.

One last thing. Did I say one last thing? This is what happens when I take time off. I'm done after this.

How about when Jesus says, hey, you got a problem, right? You see, your brother has a speck of pride in his eye, and you want to help him remove that speck of pride. But the problem is, you need to deal with the telephone pole of pride in your own eye first. That's the problem. That speck in their eye, that's not the problem. The telephone pole in your eye, that's the problem. Why don't you deal with that problem first? I'll answer that prayer, oh, and fast sometimes.

You know how sometimes God, I mean, He answers, over answers the prayer even before you're done praying it. And be careful — you know, you've heard it said, be careful what you pray for. God, humble me. Oh, no you didn't. Oh, yes, he did. Let's go. Man, He's right there. He's on it. I just get done with the prayer, in Jesus' name.

Boom! I'm already being humbled. He answers that prayer. That's the right prayer.

Humble me, Lord. Make me a man of prayer. That's a dangerous prayer. I prayed that many years ago. God gave me two sons. I'll make you a man of prayer. I'll put you on your knees. I'll make you a parent. You'll learn how to pray very fast. Crash course in prayer.

But I always know I am right; I am rightly praying the right way when I acknowledge and admit that I've got a telephone pole in my eye. I'm the problem, not them, not them.

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And this is in the husband – wife relationship more than in any other arena of life. Because again, if we're honest with ourselves and I include myself in this, when we pray, Lord, show them that they're wrong. You think God's going to answer that prayer? I tell you what prayer He's going to answer is, Lord, forgive me because I'm wrong.

Boom! It's like (Singing a heavenly tune) the heavens open up, the angelic host sings. God answers your prayer because now the prayers right. I'm praying right. So now here comes the right answer to that right prayer.

I hope this is of help to you. It's a simple thing. Just a simple change in your prayer life. Go from the peripheral prayer to the precision prayer and watch and see what God will do. And more importantly, make sure that it's not you that's the problem.

Because if you're the problem and you're not praying or acknowledging that you're the problem, then that prayer will bounce off the ceiling. I promise you; I've got the scars to prove it. It is true.

Okay, that wasn't too bad, was it? I want to do a couple things different tonight. I want to have — I hope you guys don't mind me. And by the way, thank you for coming, those of you that were able to make it. Not all of you are here, but I hope you don't mind me referring to you — this is an affectionate term of endearment. I call you guys 'Team Clean.'

[ Laughter ]

Do you like that? I mean, it's got kind of a ring to it, right? Team Clean. Can I have all of you come up? I won't embarrass you. I won't steal treasures from you. But we just want to thank you and pray for you.

So everybody that comes on Monday mornings and serves so faithfully and tirelessly — you know why this church is always so spotless clean? Because we hire a company that comes in. No. That's not why. Come on up. I showered. Just come on the stage.

There's 20 — how many, seven? Yeah, yeah.

[ Applause ]

Get up here and don't leave till I say you can. I just — we just want to thank you guys for serving so faithfully in this, God's church. You know what they do every Monday morning?

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They show up and they clean up your mess, (Chuckling) mine too, in this church, as unto the Lord. So I just asked Gail if she would email them and ask them to — thank you for coming tonight, you guys. And thank you for all that you do as unto the Lord.

But I just wanted to thank God for them, pray for them, and bless them. So would you join me in a word of prayer for Team Clean.

Oh, Lord, thank You so, so much for these faithful servants who love You so much, love this, Your church so much, love Your people so much that they would joyfully, cheerfully, gladly, willingly, give up of their time and come and clean because it's for You, as unto You, not for the applause or the accolades of man, not to please man but to please You, to be pleasing in their service, acceptable in Your sight.

Lord, we thank You for them, their faithfulness. We pray Your blessing on them. Lord, just grant them the grace and the rewards that are theirs because of what they do. Thank You for them. In Jesus' name, Amen and amen. Thank you so much. God bless you guys.

[ Applause ]

You're excused now. I still need to know. I should know this. I don't know anything. I just pastor here. There's 20 — how many of you guys on Team Clean? 27, 28? How many? 24. Thank you, Gail. How many were not here tonight, about six, seven? Seven weren't here. Their names: we'll have to get them to you. I don't know; maybe Gail can email you their names. But thank you very much for all that you do.

The other thing I want to do different tonight is actually pray with precision prayers for those that have asked us to pray for them. So I've asked Pastor Leitu and Pastor Mac to come up. We'll start with Pastor Leitu. He's going to come up.

Now, the prayer lists are up here. If you don't have one, you might want to grab one at this time. You can agree with us. you can also pray in the quietness of your own heart for the many prayer requests that were submitted, many from the local church, many from the online church, many that are just I mean, just reading through the prayer — the way I do it is I read through it and then I pray through it. And some of the requests on this prayer list are just so intense.



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So Pastor Leitu is going to pray for some select prayer requests on the list. And then after he's done, Pastor Mac's going to come up. And then after Pastor Mac's done, I'm going to come up and pray for some of the prayer requests, and you can agree with us as we go through this list. But we're just going to pray for these people that have taken the time to ask us to pray. We're going to take the time to pray. So just so you know, I am going to pray for more prayer requests than Leitu and Mac are because... Yeah. So, okay.

PASTOR LEITU: We just went to Costco yesterday, and I shared Sunday that my wife is a prayer warrior. So she prayed, and we got a parking spot right up front.

[ Laughter ]

God is good, Amen? Why don't we bow our heads in prayer? Lord, we come before Your throne, and we just thank You, Lord, for who You are. We exalt and we lift You up, Lord, and our adoration and love for You, Lord. We never forget, Lord, we never forget what You did for us, Lord. We never forget the cross, Lord, and that You would send Your Son, that Jesus, you would give Your life, Your blood, so that we could be saved. And then, Lord, You even send Your Holy Spirit to dwell in us, Lord, to lead us, to guide us, to seal us. We belong to You. And Lord, we are so thankful and we're so grateful.

Father, we come before You, Lord, and on May 15th, Lord, Regina R., Lord, asked for prayer for the sudden loss of her mom, Lord. It triggered anxiety within her heart, Lord. Your word tells us in Philippians to be anxious for nothing, but by prayer and supplication that we would let our requests be known to You, and with thanksgiving, that we would let our requests be known to You. And the peace that passes all understanding would guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

And so, Lord, I pray for her, Lord, that you will continue to just comfort her, Lord. Through the loss of her mother has even affected her health, Lord, as now she's requiring transfusions, Lord, for blood loss. Not only that, Lord, but there's also issues in her family that are arising. The enemy's just wanting to just bring more destruction into this family. She's sharing with us, Lord, that she desires for the Gospel to be heard by her family. I pray for Regina R., Lord, that You would continue to just bless her, heal her, and also Lord, that her family, Lord, would be spiritually healed.

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On the 14th of May, Lord Patty B. is asking for prayer for her hip replacement. It's been about a couple of weeks, Lord, and I know a little bit about hip replacements. I've had. I've had both of them replaced, and I've had two knee replacements. Lord, they're no fun to go through. There's a lot of pain, there's a lot of — there's a lot of stress, a lot of anxiety.

So I come before You, Lord. I just pray for Your Holy Spirit, that You continue to just be with her, comfort her, guide her. I pray, Lord, that her healing would go well, Lord. And I pray, Lord, that she makes her therapy appointments, for they're very important, Lord. I pray for that therapist, Lord, that she goes to, that they would take good care of her. Lord.

On 10th of May, Jan B. is asking for prayer for her son, Ben, a 15-year-old. Lord, He's even thinking about suicide. And I know about suicide. I also have a son named Benjamin, Lord. And I'm thankful, Lord, that my son has come to that place of redemption, who's called out to You, Lord. And I thank You, Lord, that I see him here with his family at church, Lord. But Jan's asking for her son.

So I pray, Holy Spirit, that You would just move upon this young man, Lord. His name is Ben. And I pray that You would touch his heart, Lord, that he would come to know You and love You and worship You as You so deserve to be. I pray that You would guide and hear his mom's prayer, Lord, and answer it.

Lord, for good friends of mine, Frank and Layla, Lord, who are just going through a devastating time in their life. Lord, right now they're suffering loss, Lord, that's unimaginable. I lift them up to You, Lord. You know every detail of what's going on in their lives, Lord. And I just pray for them, Lord, for Your healing hand upon them, Lord. Comfort them. Ease their pain, Lord.

So I come before You to just lift them up to You, Lord. They're a godly couple that are just going through a really hard time right now, Lord. Lord, I come before You to pray for them and lift them up to You.

Lord, there's gentleman here that came for the first time. His name is Marcus, Lord. He's a friend of Dr. Dubuque, Lord. And I just pray for him. Lord, I don't know where he is with You, Lord, but he's going through a health issue of his own. Lord, I just pray for him, Lord, as, tonight, Lord, that if he doesn't know You, Lord, that he would draw closer and closer to You,

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and even maybe accept You. But if he knows You, Lord, I just pray for his healing. Lord, whatever he's going through, I lift him up to You, Lord, and ask Lord for Your healing touch upon him.

Thank You, Lord, that he has a brother, Dr. Chris, Lord, who's been I know, a good influence in his life for You. So I come before You to thank You, Lord, for what You're going to do because we took the time to prayer.

PASTOR MAC: Oh, Father in heaven, we thank You so much. And we can't thank You enough for being who you are. Salvation for our loved ones, we all desire. And they can only come by Your Spirit. We have a prayer request, like with many, wishing for the salvation of their loved one.

So Lord, I come before You and ask that by the power of Your Holy Spirit, You would go before them and bring somebody into their lives that has a heavy influence, that they will look to and see You and see the joy that is in their lives and want to partake in it, and that You would just crack the hardness of their hearts, circumcise them, Lord, and allow Your Spirit to enter in and take control of them and allow them to see and witness Your love, and because of Your love, Lord, they're led to You.

Lord, I pray also that You would be gentle to those of the aged. As we all grow older things fall apart. So we pray, Lord, for Patty's sister, that You would just bring the proper nurses alongside and those who would care for her sister properly. As she loses functionality, Lord, we ask that you would just minimize and rid the pain that is often associated with aging.

And as she lays in this hospital and facility, that they would take proper care and You would overshadow her with your Holy Spirit and bless her during these times of despair, and in so doing, remove any and all anxiety that would come and renew her strength enough, Lord, just to look and see You, and know that soon and very soon she will be in the presence of the King.

Father, I also come before You because we all have our own struggles. But it's so disturbing when we have our struggles as believers, of the past, allowing the enemy to infiltrate our minds, the things that we've done beforehand. You told us in Your word over and over again to take our thoughts captive and bring them to the obedience of Christ.

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And it's the how do we do that, Lord? We do that with heavy influence of Your word, knowing the truth. So I pray that Dave would come and continue to just dive into Your word and allow the Holy Spirit to engage that battle for him and remove and eradicate all those wicked thoughts that come about the past, when we know You have forgiven our sins and removed them as far from the east to the west. And in doing so, Lord, remove his anxiety and his heartfelt troubles of his past, and remind him of that blessed future that You have for us all who believe in You.

And finally, Father, I pray for healing, emotionally, for Alexandra who's lost her daughter. What parent would want to lose their child? And what do we do when they go through such pain? Many others who believe in You have dealt with the same. So Lord, for her comfort, could You bring those alongside her who have felt this immense pain and be able to aid in lifting her up and bringing her through this as well, knowing that by the power of Your might and having them continue to look upon You, they will get through it.

So Lord, comfort all the hearts that have been impacted by this loss. And we pray for a good report soon that You have indeed broke through and they are moving forward in faith. In the mighty name of Jesus, the Christ, we do pray. Amen.

PASTOR JD: Loving, heavenly Father, I want to start with this anonymous prayer request that we received, actually, yesterday, from a mother who lost her 47-year-old son in his sleep. Lord, we know the Holy Spirit is the comforter. So we certainly pray for the comfort of the Holy Spirit that as only You can, You would give her. How devastating. But give her that that supernatural peace that surpasses all human understanding. The peace of God from the God of peace, as Paul says.

But Lord, just the — what sounds like the suddenness, the unexpectedness of this, Lord, I pray that You would just draw her in. That she would draw near to You, nearer, closer. Knowing that You're close, closest really, to the brokenhearted, those who are devastated like this. Lord, we don't know whether or not he knew You. You know.

But Lord, for his mother, it would seem that she does know You. And she's asked us to pray for her. And so, Lord, we're going to just ask You, believing by faith that You'll comfort her and minister to her in ways that she could have not otherwise been ministered to.

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And with the details, Lord, protect her from the charlatans that take advantage of the grieving when it comes to the funeral arrangements. Lead her to the right people that will be honest with integrity. Surround her with family, friends, loved ones, I hope a church family that she would have, that can just be there for her, a support to her and encourage her. And Lord, we grieve. She's going to grieve, but not as those without hope. So Lord, would You give her hope at such a time as this.

Marianne Toyama texted me about three weeks ago and asked for prayer. She was suffering from a pretty serious respiratory ailment. So I had Gail add her to the list. We were praying and then, about a week-and-a-half, couple weeks ago, she texted me again with a praise report that Gail then added. Now she's asking for prayer for the rest of her group. Four out of the ten of them are now experiencing the same respiratory problems. Coughing, they're coming down with the same symptoms.

Lord, here's how we're going to pray. Precision prayer. Lord, whatever it is that is causing this ailment, this illness, this sickness, Lord, would You remove it completely and even miraculously, if need be, and do it in such a way that is unmistakably You, so that only You receive all the glory due Your holy name.

And for whoever these friends of Marianne are, perhaps some do not know You. Maybe this is that which You will use to bring them to You. So be it, Lord. Whatever it takes.

Oftentimes, it is on a bed of suffering, in the bed of sickness, that many come to the end of themselves and a saving knowledge of You.

Lord, I do thank You for Marianne. She's a dear friend, still part of our church ohana. And we just want to give You all the glory for the good praise report that she's doing so much better. Lord, that's You. Only You could do that. And You did that for our sister. And so, Lord, thank You.

I also wanted to pray for this sister, Nancy. This is a tough one. This is a hard one to wrap one's mind around, let alone pray for. Her grandson is in the intensive care unit. Seems to be possibly exposure to Covid or something. While not vaccinated, his body is experiencing multiple body system inflammation that is so bad that he cannot speak or even move his body. That's bad.

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But God, You are good and You're the God who heals. Lord, I pray for the staff in that particular intensive care unit that You would give them supernatural wisdom from above to know what to do, what even to diagnose what this is, what is causing it, get to the source of it, diagnose it correctly, and treat it properly so that Nancy's grandson fully recovers. I can't imagine how difficult this must be to see your grandchild like this.

So Lord, You're the Great Physician. And You know the heart of every physician in that hospital. So Lord, please bring the right one, the perfect one at the perfect time. And, Lord, I want to even take it a step further and pray that many of these that we've prayed for tonight, those that have been prayed for from this pulpit and those that have been prayed for in the quietness of the heart, would not only be heard and answered, but that we would even receive a good report that would come, a praise report. We rejoice in those and give You all the glory for those.

Lord, I want to now pray for Lane and Grace, two of our staff members on the Big Island, a big part of this ministry. So precious. Dear friends. Lane's doing much better, but it was pretty serious.

But You, oh, Lord, intervened. He's recovering. He told us today in our staff meeting that he's at about 95%. That to me is a miracle because he was in pretty bad shape, and he was in the hospital for quite a while. And then while he's in the hospital, Grace gets sick with a respiratory ailment, something she's dealt with for many years. Just even the fear that comes packaged with something like that.

So Lord, I first want to thank You that Lane's doing so much better. Please God, keep him for us and us for him. Same for Grace. Keep her for us and us for her. And remove the sickness from her lungs. Restore her breathing. Remove her coughing.

Lord, this last one, again, kind of a tough one, but I chose it to pray for it because it deals with — I hope I'm pronouncing her name right — Rhiannon. She's a sister in Christ in Afghanistan, of all places, and it seems that she's in extreme danger from the Taliban. She's asked for prayer for Anahita and her three children. And their names, by name we want to pray for them, Saddaf, Kanishka and Kayhan.

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Lord, we are so blessed to live where we live. Of course, we still complain. Forgive us for complaining. All it takes is a prayer request like that to remind us of what our brothers and sisters are dealing with and the suffering, the persecution in other parts of the world. Every single one of us in this prayer meeting tonight could have been born in Afghanistan but weren't.

So Lord, I pray that — I'm going to pray in a different way — certainly for supernatural protection. That You would blind the eyes of the Taliban, these demon-possessed people that need You, Jesus.

We pray for their salvation, their complete transformation. But blind their eyes to these precious people that have asked us to pray for their protection from them. If they're close in proximity to them, or pose a threat to them, Lord, I pray that You would, as You have so many times, and even had it recorded in the pages of Scripture for us, where You've just blinded people to seeing what they shouldn't see to protect Your people.

So Lord, would You do that for them? But what I want to pray for differently, specifically, by way of a precision prayer, is that You would use this as bad as it is to direct, not just protect, but direct, even redirect them to where You would have them go if that's what You're doing. If You're allowing this to happen for a reason, and that reason is, is that You're trying to remove them from this place of danger to a different place of safety, then God, would You provide a way and then do it?

And again, use this as extreme as it is, as terrifying as it must be, for Your glory, for Your praise. Lord, that promise we rest in, that You make even the wrath of man to praise You. Only You can do that. You can take a terroristic threat, a life and death threat, a life and death situation such as this, and You can work it in such a way that it brings praise and glory to You. How You do it, we don't know. The way You do it, we can't know. But what we can know by faith is that You can do it. So will You do that, Lord, for them?

Lastly, I just want to petition Your throne on behalf of the many other people on this list. We have three pages, two sides. Of all of these prayer requests, we've tried to condense them. We keep them as current as 30 days, and we abbreviate some of the longer prayer requests. But these are real people that are hurting so bad, struggling so hard.

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Lord, would You just reveal Yourself to them in a powerful way, in ways that they could have never imagined, showing Yourself faithful as You always do, miraculously moving in their situation as perilous as it seems and use these situations? Many, many of these people — I think of the number of prayer requests on this prayer list tonight, of people who have thought about taking their lives or lost their will to live.

Oh, Lord, please, please, Lord, reveal Yourself to them as The way, The truth, The life, and give them new life and new hope. Lord, please. Lord, thank You for all that came tonight to the prayer meeting. Thank You for the prayer meeting. Lord, thank You for prayer. What would we do if we couldn't pray? I wonder what would our Christian lives be like were it not for prayer?

So Lord, thank You for giving us this thing we call prayer with which to reach You, to reach Your throne, to petition Your throne boldly, not arrogantly, but confidently. We can have unfettered access to You at any time, ask You for anything. And we can come to Your throne of grace in our time of need and know that we'll find mercy there, and that You'll help us, that You'll hear us, that You'll answer us. You want to answer our prayers more than we ourselves even want You to answer our prayers.

So Lord, thank You. Thank You for prayer. Thank You for answered prayer. And we thank You in advance for that which You're going to do because we took the time tonight to pray. As we leave, Lord, and go our way, I pray that we'll maintain just an attitude of prayer, praying continually and in our hearts, talking to You constantly with that constant conscious communion with You. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.