

Summary

This sermon focuses on the power of prayer through the story of Moses in Exodus 33, where Moses intercedes with God after the golden calf incident. The pastor emphasizes that prayer is not a last resort but should be our first response to life's challenges. Through Moses' conversation with God, three key reasons for prayer are revealed: prayer requests God's presence, reveals His plans, and releases His power. The deeper message shows that God's ultimate plan for believers is sanctification – being set apart and looking more like Jesus. The sermon concludes with the progression that God's presence brings purity, and from purity flows power, emphasizing the importance of obedience in experiencing God's transformative work.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather together to discuss Your Word, we ask that You open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us today. Help us to be receptive to Your Spirit's leading and to hear not just with our ears, but with our hearts. Lord, we pray that through our time together, You would reveal Yourself to us in new ways and show us how to apply these truths to our daily lives. May our discussion draw us closer to You and to one another. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's one thing you always carry with you that others might find surprising or unusual?

Key Verses

Exodus 33:12-23

1 Corinthians 6:11

1 Corinthians 7:14

Questions

1. Moses insisted that God personally go with him rather than sending an angel. When have you felt the need for God's personal presence rather than just His help through others?

2. Moses said 'If you don't personally go with us, don't make us leave this place.' How can we apply this principle of not moving forward without God's presence in our own decision-making?

3. The sermon mentions that God's presence sets His people apart from others. In what practical ways should believers look different from the world around them?

4. How does understanding that sanctification (being set apart) is God's primary plan for our lives change how we approach daily decisions and relationships?

5. The pastor shared about the 'circle of sanctification' affecting unbelieving family members. How does this truth impact how you pray

for and interact with unsaved loved ones?
What does it mean to make prayer our 'first response rather than our last resort'?

6. Share about a time when you waited too long to pray about a situation.

7. The progression mentioned was: God's presence leads to purity, which leads to power. How have you seen this progression work in your own spiritual life?

8. Moses was obedient even when God's call didn't make sense. What is one area where God might be calling you to obedience that seems difficult or unclear?

Life Application

This week, identify one major decision or challenge you're facing and commit to making prayer your first response rather than your last resort. Before taking any action, spend time seeking God's presence and asking Him to reveal His plans. Also, examine one area of your life where you may need to be more set apart (sanctified) and take a practical step toward obedience in that area.

Key Takeaways

- Prayer requests the presence of God – we need God to personally show up in our situations
- Prayer reveals the plans of God – His primary plan for our lives is sanctification (being set apart)
- Prayer releases the power of God – when we seek His presence and walk in purity, His power flows through us
- God's presence among His people sets them apart from all others on earth
- From God's presence flows purity, and from purity flows power – there is a divine progression in spiritual growth

Ending Prayer

Lord God, thank You for this time of fellowship and discussion around Your Word. We are amazed that You desire to have a personal relationship with each of us and that You want to go with us through every situation we face. Help us to remember that Your presence is what sets us apart and that You have called us to be sanctified – to look more like Jesus each day. Give us the courage to be obedient even when Your calling doesn't make sense to us. May we make prayer our first response, not our last resort. As we go from this place, help us to live as people marked by Your presence, walking in purity so that Your power can flow through us to reach others. We commit our prayer requests to You, trusting that You hear us and will move in mighty ways. In Jesus' powerful name, Amen.