

Here's what we're going to be talking about today, and here's where we're headed over the next few weeks. This week and next week, I want to talk about prayer. And part of the reason I'm doing this is 2 summers ago, summer of 2024, I'm losing track of time. Whatever year and a half ago, something like that. We were just starting these. Number of prayer, prayer initiative. And we took like a whole sermon series just to talk about prayer. We even did a Sunday school class on prayer. And I think it really helped the church get to where we needed to be for that. And I've had a couple of people ask me, like, man, you haven't taught on prayer for a little bit. And yet we are right in the middle of this 100 days of prayer initiative. I know I've talked about it quite a bit, but if anybody's not tracking what that is, we are partnered with The Way, which is our sister church. We help plant neighborhood church. Neighborhood Church planted The

Way. So they're part of the Kansas City,
KS Baptist Association. And what we're
doing is we're just praying together.
We're taking 100 days to come together as
bodies and Christ in prayer. We're
praying for one specific thing, and
that is revival. Here in Kansas
City. We were talking about this
in Sunday school class this morning.
If there's one thing that every
revival, every spiritual awakening has in
common is that they are all
preceded. By prayer, all of them without
exception. And that's not just Seth Green
speaking. You're welcome to go and read
up on it. Those who have studied these
things way more depth than me have said
yeah, it always is preceded by prayer.
And what's beautiful about it is it's
usually prayer spread across different
churches, different congregations and as
they come together as a unified. Body in
Christ asking for God to bring revival
to that area. Then many times that

is when he begins to move. I'm reminded of what Jesus said. He said in so many words, you do not have because you did not ask. And sometimes when I look around at our church. Or talk to other pastors. I'm getting to know more and more of them in the Kansas City area. We're starting to realize perhaps we do not have simply because we did not ask. And so our goal is to come together as churches, pray together for that 100 day. It's pretty cool because that pops us out right about Easter time and see how God is moving. We're also working with the way for recovery groups, and what recovery groups are is pretty much what it sounds like. For those who have been mired in addictions, I won't say raise your hand because I'd be embarrassing, but you know who you are. You know, I'll raise my hand. I've had addiction traumas in my life and the only way out of that was to get with some other people and work with

them towards recovery. And so for those who are in that could be alcohol addiction, drug addiction. pornography is a big one right now. Workaholism, It's the only addiction in America that you're rewarded for. So lots of people do. It could be a lot of things. Some guys are addicted to video games. That can actually be a big problem in family life. But that addiction, we work with others, our brothers and sisters in Christ to be freed from those addictions. And so we've partnered with the way said, hey, let's come together as churches. There are people work together so that we can move towards that freedom because anybody else who has walked that road, you know, it ain't happening on your own. Like all the willpower and the road in the world is not going to get you there. OK, so we're going to talk about prayer a little bit this morning. We're going to have two weeks on prayer this week and you're going to get a chance to hear. I'm one of

your church members who's been heavily involved in all our prayer initiatives of what God has been doing in her life. Next week I'm going to preach on prayer as well. Similar to summer of 2024, we're going to take a little bit of time, a little bit of time at the end of that service to pray together as a church, and I'll have some prompts to lead us through that. So if you ever want to invite someone to church and make them feel really awkward. I don't know what's going on. Next week is a good week to do that. They'll have to pray with us. They're gonna love it. We're going to spend some time praying together. Then we're going to move into a sermon series. I don't have a title for it yet. It doesn't really matter. But, well, here's what it is. We're going to take a look at some of the lives of people in Scripture. I've been looking forward to preaching on this for a long time. You guys have heard me say many times the Bible is a

cohesive, interrelated story and the stories about God's redemptive plan for creation and mankind. Now, how does God choose to tell that story? Through different ways, certainly through the prophets. Through the Psalms, through the teaching to the New Testament epistles, through the teaching of Christ. But especially as you get into the Old Testament, you find that one of the primary ways he communicates is through the lives of people. And something I love about it. As you see God work through the lives of different people in the Old Testament, you realize these are flawed. Messed up people who are still being used by God. Now Scripture hits the highlights. Like I've been reading through the life of Jacob and it's it jumps from like one year and all sudden 15 years later and then another 10 years after that. It's the highlights. Scripture is a masterpiece and conciseness and brevity. Like it's 1500

pages. Yeah, it's it could be a lot longer. And moves only through the big stuff. So I'm still thinking through exactly how I'm going to teach it. But I think we're probably going to do like the highlights of the highlights, not go verse by verse, but just see the overall arc of the story as we see what God is using this person for, what we learn through that person. So more to follow on that. I've been having a lot of fun going through and. Starting to put it together. Alright, so that's what's coming down over the next couple of weeks. Today I'm gonna keep an eye on the clock here. I'm gonna take about 20 minutes or so, and we're going to talk about the practice of prayer. The practice of prayer. And I've crafted this sermon a little bit. Differently than I normally do. So throughout the summer of prayer, throughout the 100 days of prayer initiative, a lot of you have come to me with different observations on prayer,

things that you're learning and your own prayer life. And as people have come and talked to me about these things I've started to notice, hey, these are similarities that each person. Was experiencing as God talks to them and grows them through their prayer life. Then you go and read a couple of books on prayer and it's like, ohh man, these are actually similar to almost anybody who has really tried to grow in their prayer life. So I'm going to share with you today three main observations about the practice. Of prayer, and this isn't so much how to pray, really what it is, is what God is doing in you through prayer and also what God uses in our lives to grow us in our prayer life. So we're not going to be going through the Lord's Prayer, rather we're going to be looking at and saying, what does God do? In you, when you start to commit to the practice of prayer, we're learning about that in our

spiritual formation groups where it becomes a daily, weekly, monthly rhythm where your life begins to be built around it. And then also the type of circumstances that God uses to bring us to our knees. So I'm going to have three main, I've boiled it down, three main observations, just putting together the different things, the different conversations that I've had. And we're going to look at some scripture together as well. So the first one is this many times we learn to pray through seasons of pain. Or loss while we are in the desert, as it were. That's the first observation that keeps coming up over and over again. Many times we learn to pray through seasons of pain, loss, discomfort. Here's the big one, ambiguity I was talking to. I was at the daddy daughter dance with my daughter Gussie yesterday at Kansas City Christian. We got into this

interesting. It's great when you're a pastor, you say, I'm a pastor, people start telling you stuff just just like that. So I got into this conversation with another dad about how hard it is to live in ambiguity. And he was going through some stuff in his own life, and he's like, the worst. The hardest part is just not knowing what's going to happen.

And it's like, yeah, man, that that's true ambiguity. Or it's like, I don't know how this is going to turn out and you're just in the middle can be one of the greatest seasons of desert that anybody is going to go through. So go ahead and grab your Bibles and go ahead and turn to 1st Kings 19. This is the passage that Kevin so ably read for us just a little while ago. Kevin, you have earned yourself future invitations. To read more by doing a good job. So thank you. First Kings 19 and we are going to be starting up in verse 3 and this is a story. If you've read through the Old

Testament, then you know this one well,
but we're going to take a little bit of a
closer look at it.

Ohh my goodness Sir, is it?

Alright, here we go.

Alright, first Kings 19.

The background of this is Elijah has just
had one of the greatest victories in his
entire ministry. You can read about it in
the previous chapters, but it was
basically basically when he had a rumble,
a showdown with the prophets of bail
amount Carmel and God won. And as a
reward, Jezebel says I'm going to kill
you. So here's what happens, starting in
verse 3. Then he was afraid, and he arose
and ran for his life, and came to
Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and
left his servant there. But he himself
went a day's journey into the wilderness,
and came and sat down under a broom tree,
and don't miss this. And he asked that he
might die. Saying it is
enough now. Ohh Lord take away my life

for I'm no better than my father's.

And he lay down and slept under a broom tree, and behold, an Angel touched him, and said to him, Arise and eat. And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. And he ate and drank, and lay down again. And the Angel of the Lord came again, and second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat for the journey.

There's too great for you. And he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food, 40 days and 40 nights, to Horeb, the mount of God. Then he came to a cave and lodged in it, and behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and we'll stop there.

Let's not miss the.

Potency of what we just read. This is one of the absolute lowest time of Elijah's life to such an extent.

Don't miss his words. And he basically says I wish I was dead.

I don't wanna be here anymore.

So Lord, why don't you just kill me and
let's get this over with and I'll go and
be with my father's.

Now again, no show of hands. But perhaps
some of you have been at that spot
before. Something maybe even close
to it.

Now here's what's interesting about this.

A lot of times we divorce Chapter
9 from what came previously. This is
following one of the greatest victories
in Elijah's life. Certainly one
of the greatest ones talked about in
Scripture. He had just had a face to
face showdown with the prophets of bail
and Mark Mount Carmel. God had won in
a spectacular fashion. They had gone, the
people had gone, they had killed all the
different prophets of bail and it's like,
what's going on? Then why are you
so low? That you would say this
and mean it. So as an
Army chaplain, I unfortunately work with
a lot of different suicides, and I've

learned through training and then through talking to a lot of different soldiers who are going through it. What happens with suicide is you get to a point where you have no further hope.

And human beings, if you pull their hope, then you've got them. So you get broken down until you become convinced that there is absolutely no hope, nothing is going to change, nothing is going to get better. It's not a reasonable place to be. It's not even true. But yet that is how it feels to that individual. And as I look at Elijah's life, I think what's going on with him, the reason for his just I want to die. And suicidal thoughts. He's not trying to take his own life, but you recognize the same sentiment that would be in somebody who was. I think the reason for his intense depression is that he feels like after that victory, he's like, man, nothing's going to change.

That was all just pointless.

Even after God proved Baal to be a false God, even after the prophets of Baal are killed, even after keep reading the chapter God sins reign to end a vicious drought. After all that, Elijah's like it didn't mean anything. It didn't make any difference at all. At the end of the day, Jezebel's. Still in charge of the land, she still has the power to kill all the prophets of God, and to his knowledge, most of them are already dead.

And what causes this huge mental, physical, emotional and certainly spiritual depletion is you. Just like, what difference did it all make?

Nothing's going to change.

And it brings him to such a low point that where does he go? Literally, where does he go? To the desert?

Now that's interesting. Because Elijah is not the only person to spend 40 days in the desert. Who else did that?

Jesus. Yep, to be tempted.

Moses actually did it a couple times. He

went to Mount Sinai without food and water while he was talking to God.

So what is the desert? What is it? In this case, it's certainly literal. They literally did go to the desert. But it also symbolizes something. In fact, you might even call it the wall, as Craig talked about last week.

What is it? It's an extended time of mental, physical, emotional and certainly spiritual distress.

Don't miss this that God allows us to go through.

The desert is an extended time. It's never over fast. It just goes on.

It feels like it goes on and on and on. Of mental, physical, emotional and spiritual distress. That

God. Lets us.

Go through.

Why would he do that?

And anyone who spent time in the desert, or maybe you're there now, knows it is an

incredibly hard place to be. Why would he
do that?I
want you to listen to this because
it's only when God breaks us down.
That we can actually learn to depend on
him. It's
only when God breaks us down that we're
gonna learn to depend on Him. Let me say
it another way. It's only when God.
Purposefully gets rid of the
things that we think matter
most. That we
can actually learn what really does
matter most. And it's him.
It's when God gets rid of the things.
Perhaps the idols, if you want to put it
that way, or just the false beliefs in
our lives, those things that we think
matter most and God takes you to the
desert and he just pulls those from you
so that you can learn what actually does
matter most. Which
is him and him alone.
Where does it take place?In

the sometimes literal.

But certainly also metaphorical desert,
which is those periods of prolonged
stress and pain.

Now why is that so important? What does
it have to do with prayer? I'm gonna tie
these together. Here's why
spending time in the desert is important
and friends, you can spend time with the
desert individually and you can spend
time in the desert as a church. Dare I
say we are in a desert season as a church
now. Why does God do
that? Let's tie it to prayer.

I'm gonna quote John Tyson here. He's a
pastor out in New York City. He says
unless you break the stronghold of false
images of God in your mind, you will
never be drawn to prayer.

What happens in the desert? You get
broken down and all the stuff that you
think matters so much. Whenever idols and
pride and whatever else might be that
it's blocking you from the Lord, he

starts to systematically take away. He lets you go to the desert, He leads you to the desert. He does it on purpose, as a comfortable and as hard as it is.

Because if he doesn't, if he doesn't break down those false images that you have in in your mind of him that I have in my mind of him, we're never going to be drawn to Him in prayer. You could say it this way. If you want to be drawn to God in prayer, you have to see him as he truly is. Not as whatever picture you have in your mind of him is.

Let me ask you guys something. Do you enjoy spending time with somebody you don't like?

It's rhetorical question, obviously.

Like, hey, if you wanna punish somebody, just make him go on vacation with somebody they truly don't enjoy. And it's it's not fun. Vacation's not fun at all.

None of us enjoy spending time with somebody that we just don't like being around.

And so many Christians, they
have this picture of God
as this perpetually disappointed
authority figure with impossible
expectations. Or let me
add a couple more on there. So many
Christians they have the picture of God
that either their parents or their church
told them to have, which very well may
not be accurate.

Or they have a picture of God
built up in their mind, comprised of
whatever experiences they've gone through
in life. Because this happened to me.

God must be this way.

And it's usually not a good thing.

And if we have those false images, to
quote Tyson, have God in our mind, guess
what? We are not going to be drawn to
God in prayer because that's not somebody
you want to spend a great deal of time
with. So what does God do?

He takes you to the desert, breaks
you down in order to rid you

or rid me or rid us of

those false images of him.

So that we can, on a greater scale,

see God as he truly is.

Not as we think he is or think that he

ought to be. And when

we see God as He truly is. And I love

what John Mark Comer says. As a

father. Who has a welcoming

heart of goodwill towards us?

When we begin to see the correct picture

of God, which I'm still learning along

with all the rest of you, then you are

going to be drawn to Him.

So if you have a difficult time praying.

It's a real struggle for you. Think about

this. How do you see

and understand God?

Perpetually disappointed authority

figure. Some weird wrong theology

that got implanted into your brain is

childhood or church or some Sunday school

teacher didn't know what they were

talking about.

Some experiences you've been through. If this happened to me, then God must be this way. And if our picture of him is off, then of course we're not gonna want to spend that face to FaceTime with him in prayer.

I'm gonna wrap it up here in just a second, but I'll just share it from my heart here for a minute.

Most Christians friends.

Don't want to spend face to FaceTime with God?

That confused me for years in ministry.

Like I don't get this.

Many Christians don't actually want to spend face to FaceTime with God.

What they want is they want exactly what the people of Israel wanted. With Moses, they're like, no, you go talk to God and you tell us what he said. That's a lot more comfortable than I go talk to God.

We don't want to do it because when you get face to face with the God of the universe, you don't know exactly what's

going to happen.

And a lot of times, at least in my own life, and I think some of you would concur, when you get face to face with God, he tends to point out things that are actually very uncomfortable and difficult.

Old areas of pride that you didn't want to let go. Sins that you buried years ago. It's like, I don't want to think about that. And then all of a sudden it comes back to the surface like you never repented. You never ask forgiveness for that from that person. Idols you have in your life, idols I have in my life. When you come face to face with the almighty powerful God, you never really know what exactly is going to happen and you don't know what he's going to say to you. And

So what happens is Christians will expend every ounce of energy they have to not do that. They'll still go to church, they'll still be involved in ministry, they'll

still check every single block. So anybody looking in will be like, ohh, clearly that person is a strong growing Christian. But man, they will fight and bite and kick and do anything they can. And I'm using the second person, but I'll just flip it around. I will fight and bite and kick and do anything I can to avoid going face to face with God myself. Because it's a little scary and I don't know what he's gonna say.

The purpose of the Spiritual Formation groups is to force you to go face to face. The groups are too small to hide in. You can't just sit in the back. There's only like 3 of you that be weird if someone didn't talk. And as we learned the spiritual disciplines, what is it? It's just practiced.

Interaction face to face with the Lord.

I'm gonna last point. I'll do this one quick. I'm gonna invite Jerry up.

Last big observation when it comes to prayer, showing up even when you don't

feel like it is exactly what keeps you on track. Showing up even when you don't feel like it at all, that is what keeps you on track. I was reading an e-mail from Kerry Newhoff. Not to me personally, He just sends them out in Mass, but they're usually pretty good. And he was telling this story of he was at this church and they were singing some kind of cheesy worship song. And it was something along the lines of like, God, I'm so sorry for the times that I didn't really mean it. My heart wasn't really in it, and it was just a bit of a show, and I just kind of showed up. And then he realized through singing that song, he was like, you know what? Showing up is actually what keeps you on track. I'll ask this, you can raise your hands for this one. How many of you are still married because you just kept showing up? Ohh, look at that, there's a lot of hands out there. Did you feel like it every time? I doubt it.

How many of you still have relationships
with your children because you just kept
on showing up?

Every parents like ohh think every time
it's like. Be careful what I say.

How many of you still have friends?

Because you kept on showing up.

Every single person when it comes to
their own physical body knows you don't
really feel like it that much. You just
keep on showing up.

And there are so much wisdom
and understanding that much of having
a growing relationship with God is
you just keep showing up.

Guess what the spiritual disciplines keep
you to teach you to do. You just keep
showing up because it's part of your
routine. And

then God does some amazing things,
usually over time, but He does some
amazing things. Let me encourage you with
this church. And then I'm gonna invite
Jerry up in our remaining time.

Talking to us as a whole church now.

As I said, we're in a season of

desert right now, and it's a season that

God has allowed us to go into.

And as much as I wish it was over, I know

that it's a good thing.

Because he will systematically break us

down and break me down and break

you down. Until he

can get rid of. Whatever false images

of him that we've chosen to continue to

carry around. And

he can break us down to the point till we

start to see him, or at least want to see

him face to face.

And so church is the best advice I have

during the season of desert.

We ought to just keep showing up.

Taking the steps right in front of your

face and I'll do the same.

That we know the right steps to take.

My brother Tony here took one of those

steps this morning and it was I was proud

of him. The people you need to talk

to, the conversations you need to have,
the prayer times you need to have with
the Lord. The
honestly admitting.

Whatever role each one of us has played,
he just keeps showing up and saying,
Lord, show me the next right step to take
and then give me the faith and courage to
take it. And the rest is in
his hands. All right, I'm going
to invite Jerry or to come up here.

Jerry, let me grab you a chair.

Where's Tom?

Center me up, brother. How's this look?

Is that good? This guy comes up to me
after the senior. Can I cheer this time?

OK, We threw that senior leadership team
introduction and he comes up to me and
he's like, you were 6 inches off the
center with that chair circle and it was
driving me nuts. I

was like, I'm glad you learned something
from today, Tom, for teaching. Maybe you
laugh. Alright, I think we're centered

up. I'm trying to go off this. Hey, the reason I've asked Jerry up here, one of the big reasons is because I've grown continually my just respect and admiration for Jerry and a big part of this because man, she just keeps on showing up through summer prayer, the first one through summer. For the second one, through one of our most consistent signups for the 100 days of prayer, I've watched her just continue in prayer. And Jerry and I both know we have had plenty of conversations. We're going like this and we're trying to get back on the same page. But she just keeps coming back and we get back on the same page and we keep moving forward. And so when I was praying about who to bring up here, Jerry came straight to my mind. So I have a few questions for Jerry and the purpose of this is to let you all learn through her experience and hear not just from me but to from her as well. What's that? Ohh, thanks, Kevin. Yeah, we need a

mic.

And Jerry, I'm gonna remind you to hold it nice and high. I know we have some who have a hard time hearing, and I want to make sure everybody can't. Course, if you need to bring her up, please do. Alright, everybody. OK, here we go. Jerry, you've been involved in the Summer of Prayer for the last two years. And you're also currently you're one of our heaviest participants in the 100 Days of Prayer. Just tell us real quick how is God shaped your relationship with Him in prayer life as you've participated in these initiatives? Well, first what comes to mind is that through these things he has satisfied a longing in me that I've had for a long time. And to pray together as a church. And so that has been very rewarding, very much a blessing. One of the other things is when we come together and we pray

together, we become bound together in spirit because we hear. It's just really neat to be able to hear how other people's relationships with God are through their prayers and through their hearts. And how they share. I learned new things about God through those prayers. I learn new things about the people that I'm worshipping with and.

Where they're at, what they're feeling and I also see that God unites us. Just this morning as we were praying and it was interesting how I felt like the same things that God was laying on my heart. I heard others in the room praying. So again, it's that compass that. Help that we get through praying together of I'm not alone and these are not just my thoughts, but they are coming from God.

And so I feel like that's how he's shaped me and also increased at that desire to go to him and

pray and to be less dependent on.

Going and seeking flesh versus seeking the Spirit when there's something in my life. Yeah. Yeah, I had the same experience just this morning. I was down praying with Laurie Mason's class. I'll be going around praying for revival with the different Sunday school classes. You know, you start praying together and all sudden it's like I think I'll just hang out and keep on talking because you, you feel closer to the people. In the room, because you realize you're on the same page with one another. Alright, Jerry.

I know we talked about in our phone conversation, not doing long specifics of what the desert was, but you've definitely spent time in the desert and your own life, and I want you to tell us how God has used those seasons of trial and deprivation to teach you how to pray.

Well, in that desert space, I was very dependent on God. I've always been a control freak. And so in that

time in the desert, God made me
like you talked about being broke down
and he put me in a situation
where I was completely. Helpless. I had
absolutely no control over anything. Let
me let me jump in. Was that comfortable
for you? Was that fun Ohh no, we
didn't think so. When you're a control
freak and that you spent years building
this facade of I've got everything
together and suddenly you come to the
wall and. Realize that you're going to be
exposed, that you're not able to keep it
all together. And maybe I was fooling
myself. Maybe people around me didn't
really think I could keep it all
together. But I thought that I was, you
know, displaying that. And
to find yourself in a place that
you never thought that you would be
and have the question of how did
I get here? And really just my
prayer life went from praying at night
before I went to sleep. Please protect

me and don't let anybody break into
my house during the night.

To God, I desperately need you and please
help me. Yeah, Yeah, I appreciate what
you said, Jerry. It's like whatever that
thing is, if you're a control freak, if
you are a, you fill in the blank
and add freak after that, and that'll be
whatever your thing is. Those are the
things God takes away. And ohh, yeah.
And those are things he takes away
because it's like, hey, that's what's
blocking you from seeing me face to face,
alright? During the sermon, we
talked about how our view of God, our
perception of Him, our picture of Him,
determines whether or not we're drawn to
Him in prayer. Now, you and I both know
that God often uses the times of prayer
to shape our view of Him. So how has God
used your prayer life to shape your view
of Him? So I
would say that the way that
he has done that is I

spent many years like knowing, listening
and hearing God loves you and
God protects you, all of the
things that that God is supposed
to be. And
then to begin to experience
truly and understand His love
for us to understand. So
I'll just put it this
way one morning.

Walking into church, I don't know what
the greeter said to me, but suddenly
it was like this vivid picture of
when Jesus died on the cross. He
experienced every one of my sins. He
had taken on himself, the God who
abhors sin. He cannot stand sin.

I had dragged him to some of the
most awful places and yet he still loved
me and wanted to be with me. And
that was really a turning point in my
life of this is somebody who wants to
have a relationship with me and what it
means to have a relationship versus

before that. God was somebody who gave you rules to follow, and if you didn't follow these rules, then, well, He was waiting to ZAP you. Yeah, the number one thing that I pray over my daughters every night is that they would experience God's love. Not just know about it, not just talk about it, not just know where all the verses in the Bible are about love. But they would in their own lives and their own way, in a way that makes sense to them, experience his love because it shatters those those pictures you have of him that it just. Inaccurate. Let's go to the next question for you, Jerry. We talked a lot about showing up today. What does it look like to show up for prayer even when you don't feel like it? It's not very pretty, no. And you used a lot of the words that when I, you know, was reviewing the questions, I feel like it looks like I'm a 2 year old being held by the

hand of a parent going someplace they
don't want to go kicking and screaming
and saying no, no, no.

And, um, there can be
different reasons for that, and
it's not always that ugly,
but sometimes it's just that
the whole of.

OK, so I'm going to go before God. What
am I, what am I going to be there
for? What is, you know, what do I have
to say? I don't know in this moment, you
know, maybe again, it's a circumstance
that I'm completely helpless in. And I
know I liked you a lot of times. Give
God's suggestions I'm really good at.
Giving you advice. And
so maybe this time I don't really have
any advice for him. So do I need
to show up? But what I have found
is, like you said, showing up is the
most important part. And when I show up,
first of all, He has taught me that
the Holy Spirit speaks for me when I'm

not. People to you.

Being quiet. Just

the silence and solitude can be a

great thing. I shared with my spiritual

formation group this week about learning

that there's been that time in solitude

and silence and as I'm focused on

God and it started with think of

a word. And the word that God

gave me was compassion. And that you

hold your hands in an upright position.

And I see Gwen, and she's tried to teach

us this before, but sometimes you need it

more than once while you're focused on

that to keep your hands held up. But when

you're distracted, because we can be

distracted so easily, you turn your hands

upside down until you refocus. And that

was really helpful. During that silent

time to be conscious of ohh,

I'm no longer being focused and

coming back and so.

I always am blessed when I show up, even

when I'm not wanting to. I know even

during summer of prayer. There would be times when I would go home from work and watch the clock and be like, ohh, they won't miss me if I don't go tonight. But the Holy Spirit continuing to be like, no, you need to be there. You need to be there. And then always leaving. So thankful that I showed up. Yeah, posture matters. Something I've done for a long time has prayed on my knees. And I purposely don't put a pillow down. Sometimes I will, but most time I don't. And the reason is because after about 5-10 minutes, my knees start to hurt. And it's hard to get distracted when your knees hurt and think, what am I doing here? Why am I kneeling on this floor right now? And we have hardwood floors at my house. And it's like, because you're here to pray and it keeps you focused. It keeps you from. I'm just slipping into, you know, back to sleep or whatever it might be. Alright, we got time for one more and then we'll pray and invite the

worship team back up.

I guess I got to combine these.

We'll do the last one. Jerry is

you've been praying during the 100 days

of prayer and we've been praying for

revival. And it was, it was so

encouraging to me this morning to pray

with Lori Mason and David Hayes in their

class and just hear people's hearts for

revival. Everybody's on board with that

and hear others just cry out to the Lord

to bring revival to this place. Praying

those type of prayers changes you. It

changes your desires. So Jerry, as you've

continued to lean into and pray for the

100 days, what has God been teaching you?

So from day one, unexpectedly not

what I thought God was going

to teach me or show me

was humility and that in order

for us to see revival that

we are going to have to

humble ourselves and that that humility.

This leads to a lot of

inner soul searching. I have found
that when you pray Sir to
me, O God, and know my
anxious thoughts and reveal to me
any offensive way, he answers that
prayer pretty quickly and swiftly and
pretty clearly and. So while I
thought that I would be praying for
like these big community type things and
so forth, it's been more about me
learning to be humble and to wait
on Him and that this is his
plan and not to have my own
agenda and then also just a heart
of repentance. To really understand the
ways that I have offended God and the
ways that I am not loving others around
me. And he's been really, really faithful
to point out those people that I'm
avoiding because it's hard to be in a
room with them and that.

If I am going to be like him, I have
to love like him. And that I'm not always
easy to love and other people in my life

are not always going to be easy to love.

Yeah, yeah. It's like it's.

Purge takes away those hiding places. It

does. It starts shining the light and all

these spots and it's like, ohh, man. But

it's the Spirit working. Here's what

we're gonna do. We're getting