



Series: Season of Prayer	Date: Feb. 19th 2017
Topic: Potent Prayers	Speaker: Michael Kissel

WELCOME

This week Michael Kissel shared with us a message on how we can pray potent prayers.

For the ice breaker this week, share your answers to the following question: What is one thing you would change about yourself if you could change anything?

WORSHIP

Start the worship time by encouraging people to share praises for what God has done in their life this past week. Sing worship songs from the Sunday services or select your own.

WORD

I. Spiritual Objective. At the end of the discussion, members will:

- A. Discuss the ways in which we pray and what our prayers reveal about our prayer life.
- B. Talk about how we can pray in a way that God would transform and shape our hearts and lives so that we can rise to any challenge.

II. The Sermon Synopsis:

Continuing in our Season of Prayer, Michael brought us a message about how our prayers can be potent. Looking at the prayers of the Disciples in the book of Acts, Michael pointed out that when Peter and John were faced with persecution, they prayed for boldness. As Michael pointed out, they did not pray for the situation to be made easier, instead they prayed that they would be strong enough to face the situation.

One way for our prayers to become more potent is to rather than pray for the giants in our lives to shrink down, that God would shape us to meet the challenge. Rather than praying for others, or for situations, we can pray for our own role in things; that we would be changed and transformed by God.

The Text:

²⁹ Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. ³⁰ Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus. ” ³¹ After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.
(Acts 4:29-31 NIV)

Discussion Questions

III. In his sermon notes, Michael Kissel included a prayer inventory. Take some time and do the inventory for yourself:

- A. What are the three things you pray for most frequently?
- B. What are the three things that are most important to you that you pray about?
- C. If God answered all three of your most frequent, and most important prayers how would it change your world?
- D. Does your prayer life bring you peace?
- E. When you pray do the Scriptures make more sense to you?
- F. Does prayer help to clarify your thoughts?
- G. Is prayer an important part of your personal relationships?

IV. As a group share the results of your prayer inventory. *Where do you feel you do well in prayer? Where do you want to improve the most? Was there anything new that you've never considered praying for before?*

V. One of Michael's main points in the sermon was that prayer can become more potent when we stop praying for situations and start praying for ourselves, our roles in situations, and our heart. *What do you think is the difference between praying in these two different ways? Are there things you have been praying about that you could apply this to?*



VI. Michael challenged us to: 1. Ask God to show us what kind of challenges or situations which we need to be changed to be able to meet. 2. Ask God for the types of things (like character) in our own lives that Biblical prayers asked for; e.g., when the disciples prayed for boldness in a tough situation. *What are these things or characteristics that we need to pray for our own life? What are some things you would like to change about your prayer life? Pray for these during your prayer time together next.*

WORK

- **Pray** Also spend time praying for the Church, its ministries, the congregation, and the leadership. Also pray for each other in your HOME Groups, for one another's families and finally pray that God will shape our hearts this year and prepare us to serve Him fully.
- **In addition to the above prayer requests, please also pray for our Building Expansion Project (BEP):**
 - ❖ **Permits.** 1) Continue praying for our re-application to the Bldg. Dept. for the modification to our (CUP) Conditional Use Permit to be approved w/out further complications. 2) Also pray that they will accept the documents they requested for our grading permit application so the permit will be issued by the end of Feb. We want to begin the excavation & grading of our grounds sometime in March. 3) Finally, pray that we will be ready to apply for our building construction permit by Feb. 28.
 - ❖ **Architect.** Continue praying that our architect will work with our contractor in a design-assist partnership. We will be reviewing the detailed construction drawings that we recently received. Pray for the BEP committee as we meet on Wed, 2/22 to thoroughly review and make any necessary changes.
 - ❖ **Giving, Grants & Guaranteed Loan Commitment.** 1) Pray for the continued generous giving of our congregation toward the 3-year pledge and additional gifts as God provides. 2) Pray

that God will grant us favor with the foundations that we are approaching for grants through our grant writer. 3) Pray that we will receive the loan commitment and interest rate lock that we are seeking as God provides.

- ❖ **Evaluation Meeting.** Pray for our BEP Committee as we continue to meet with our contractor & architect to find ways to reduce our overall construction costs.

Announcements:

1. **Youth Alpha Series.** The Youth Alpha Series continues this Friday for the next 3 Friday Nights (2/24 - 3/10). Pray for their Alpha Weekend Away this Fri-Sat, Feb. 17-18.
2. **PUSH Night of Prayer.** Fri, 2/24 at 7:00pm. Come join us as we culminate our 2-week Season of Prayer in praying for our church.
3. **AWANA Bible Quiz.** Sat, 2/25 from 8:30am to 12:00noon at the Hawaii Kai Church. Come out a support our AWANA kids as they compete in Bible verse memory quizzing.
4. **Annual Meeting of the Membership.** Sun, 2/26 at 7:00pm. We will elect our 2017 leaders, approve our 2017 budget and celebrate 2016.
5. **Upcoming C&MA Missions Conf. Activities:**
 - a. **Missions Week Kick-off:** Wed, 3/1 at 6:00pm- Chili Dinner available for purchase. 7:00pm-Presentation by Mark & Kathy Eikost in the worship center.
 - b. **Brunch with Mark & Kathy:** Thur., 3/2 at 10:00am at iHop.
 - c. **Men's Breakfast:** Sat, 3/4 at 7:00am. Downstairs under the tents.
 - d. **Message by Mark:** Sun, 3/5 at 7:30 and 10:30 services.
 - e. **Prayer Time for Mark & Kathy:** Tue, 3/7 at 9:15am in the Prayer Room.

SEASON of Prayer Week 2: Potent Prayers
Sun., Feb. 19, 2017
Michael Kissel

Prayer Inventory

1. What are the three things you pray for most frequently?
2. What are the three things that are most important to you that you pray about?
3. If God answered all three of your most frequent, and most important prayers how would it change your world?
4. Does your prayer life bring you peace?
5. When you pray do the Scriptures make more sense to you?
6. Does prayer help to clarify your thoughts?
7. Is prayer an important part of your personal relationships?

Prayer for the Reading of Scripture

ACTS 4:23-31

On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David:

'Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?

The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one.'

Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. They did what your power and will decided beforehand should happen. Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

Things They Didn't Pray for Comfort Ease Freedom from
Persecution Money Political Power

Things They Did Pray for God's will being done Their Own Hearts

To have a potent prayer life you must pray about your heart, and molding it for the Lord's purpose.

In other words:

Stop praying the giant would shrink and start praying that you are changed to meet the challenge, supplied for the call.

Examples from Scripture

Excerpts from John 17:15-24

James 1:5

Colossians 1:9-11

Hebrews 13:20-21

Philippians 1:9-10

Ephesians 1:17-19

List Some examples about what you can pray about from Scriptures

<u>Boldness</u>	<u>God's will to be done</u>	<u>Holiness</u>
<u>Love</u>	<u>Unity</u>	<u>Spiritual Enlightening</u>
<u>Discernment</u>	<u>Hope</u>	<u>Endurance</u>
<u>Peace</u>	<u>Power</u>	

Charge

Potent prayer is centered on God's will for our hearts and His Kingdom, our world. So commit to:

1. Asking God to show you what challenges you need to be changed for.
2. Asking God for those things that the Biblical prayers ask for the reader.
3. Repeat daily over the next week.