

Summary

Pastor emphasizes the critical importance of prayer as the first instruction for the church, drawing from 1 Timothy 2:1-6. He compares following God's instructions to following blueprints - essential for building something sound. The sermon focuses on four types of prayer: supplications (specific requests), prayers (general communication with God), intercessions (praying for others), and thanksgiving. Paul urges that these prayers be made for all people, including government leaders, regardless of personal feelings toward them. The pastor challenges the congregation to become people of prayer, noting that prayer meetings often have poor attendance while fellowship events are well-attended.

The message concludes with the promise that when we follow God's instructions to pray, it pleases God and leads to people being saved and coming to knowledge of truth. The pastor shares a powerful testimony of intercession leading to salvation and emphasizes that the church's role is to pray rather than complain about government or circumstances. He calls the congregation to be people of mighty prayer, filled with the Holy Spirit, to fulfill God's calling on their lives individually and as a church.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You with grateful hearts, acknowledging that You are the source of all wisdom and truth. As we gather together to discuss Your Word, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to receive what You want to teach us today. Help us to be people who follow Your instructions, especially Your call to be people of prayer. Remove any distractions or preconceived notions that might hinder us from hearing Your voice. Holy Spirit, guide our discussion and help us to encourage one another in our faith journey. We pray that this time together would draw us closer to You and to each other. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's something you've tried to put together or build without reading the instructions first? How did that work out for you?

Key Verses

1. 1 Timothy 2:1-6
2. Ephesians 6:18
3. Matthew 18:19
4. Psalm 106:23
5. 2 Chronicles 7:14

Questions

1. Paul says 'first of all' when talking about prayer, indicating it should be our first priority. How does prayer currently rank in your personal priorities and in our church's priorities?

2. The pastor mentioned that prayer meetings often have poor attendance while fellowship events are well-attended. Why do you think this is, and how can we change this pattern?
3. What's the difference between the four types of prayer mentioned (supplications, prayers, intercessions, thanksgiving), and which type do you find yourself using most often?
4. The sermon emphasized praying for government leaders 'whether you like them or not.' How challenging is this for you, and why is it important according to Scripture?
5. The pastor shared E.M. Bounds' quote that the church needs 'people of mighty prayer' rather than better programs or methods. Do you agree with this assessment? Why or why not?
6. How does the testimony about the man with the shotgun demonstrate the power of intercessory prayer? Can you share a time when you've seen prayer make a significant difference?
7. The pastor mentioned that 'God does nothing except in response to believing prayer.' How does this statement challenge or encourage your prayer life?
8. According to 2 Chronicles 7:14, what four things must God's people do for Him to heal their land? How can we apply this personally and as a church community?

Life Application

This week, commit to following God's blueprint for prayer by incorporating all four types of prayer (supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving) into your daily prayer time. Specifically, choose one government leader to pray for regularly, regardless of your political views, and spend time interceding for at least one person who needs salvation or is facing difficulties.

Key Takeaways

1. Prayer should be our first priority ('first of all'), not something we get around to if we have time
2. There are four essential types of prayer: supplications (specific requests), prayers (general communication), intercessions (praying for others), and thanksgiving
3. We are commanded to pray for all people, including government leaders, regardless of our personal feelings toward them
4. Intercessory prayer is powerful - standing in the gap for others can lead to breakthrough and salvation
5. When we follow God's instructions to pray, it pleases Him and leads to people being saved and coming to knowledge of truth

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for this time of discussion and for the reminder that You have called us to be people of prayer. We confess that too often we have treated prayer as an afterthought rather than our first priority. Help us to follow Your blueprint and become mighty in prayer - offering supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving for all people. Give us hearts that intercede for others, even those we may not naturally want to pray for. We ask that You would use our prayers to bring salvation to the lost and healing to our land. May we be faithful to stand in the gap for others and to seek Your face with humble hearts. Transform us into the praying church You've called us to be, for Your glory and the advancement of Your kingdom. In Jesus' mighty name, Amen.