

Good morning Fellowship family it is so good to be with you again and open God's word together. Before I begin, can I share a few quick stories with you? Have you ever prayed for something and God answered it in an unexpected way?

“My dad told me a story about when he was going into the 4th grade and as a little boy he had heard terrible things about the teacher he was set to have in 4th grade. So the summer prior to 4th grade, He begged God please don't make me have this specific teacher. Later that summer he heard the news that that teacher had in fact passed away! He was terrified! Has his prayer caused this?”

I remember the first time I met my bride. I had prayed the Ol'e missionary vow of, I will be single forever and move to the most difficult place Lord in Africa. Send me! Ha well leading a prayer meeting of college students not too long after. I saw Laura walk up in a white dress with white flowers in her hair. I quickly prayed again, Lord if you've got to make this work out. Two weeks later, I walked into a communications class called persuasion. The only seat in the class was next to her in the back of the class. She was wearing yellow flowers in her hair and had a yellow dress on. Laura was definitely in her hippie phase. She had completely forgotten who I was. We were engaged 8 months later and the rest is history. Thank God for answered prayer.

Another story of unexpected answered prayer is a moment with my friend Jack...

Often we pray and ask God for things not expecting anything to change. OR we don't really think He cares what we pray at all. We can get weird about prayer can't we? Prayer takes faith. We forget who we are speaking to. How Holy and powerful our God is. It is not just us lofting words into the air. But as Andy mentioned last week, prayer can be a conversation with our heavenly father who loves us deeply.

“Prayer causes things to happen that wouldn't happen if you didn't pray.” - John Piper.

We must believe prayer CAUSES things to happen that would not happen otherwise if we did not pray. There is power in Prayer amen?! The sovereign God of the universe supernaturally moves through our prayers.

Week 1 Dr. Tim Robinson, Jesus' love for communion with the Father. To spend intimate quality time with His heavenly father. That Jesus took time to withdraw and pray. That he deeply loved his time in prayer. If you missed that message I want to encourage you to go back and listen.

Week 2 Dr. Andy Mcquitty, PART 1 WORSHIP this past week Andy ended his sermon by reminding us that prayer changes us. That praying the Lord's prayer changes us. It realigns our hearts in worship together. Prayer changes our attitude, outlook, our affections, our perspective. We must remember who God is through worship and ask him through relationships.

The Disciples Prayer PART 2 PETITION [Reading the Lord's Prayer.](#)

I am praying that we will see the UNITY in this text today. **That you would PETITION and ASK for the provision of God, the forgiveness of God, and the protection of God.** As I have been praying for you this week, God really put on my heart that there are some of you grieving this week, that some are experiencing confusion, loneliness or even feeling forgotten. Can I just say you are not alone? You are loved by our King Jesus and by this church family.

That is why I want us to begin today by inviting us to experience the Lord's prayer together. By praying the Lord's Prayer fresh over us this morning as if for the first time, savoring every phrase and opening yourself to every word. My hope is that this draws us back to the worship portion of last week's passages and reminds us we are inviting to petition and ask God to move. Would you pray with me?

Our Father: Abba Father, we belong to You. You are our Abba Father. That's the truth from which we live and breathe today.

Who is in heaven: You are the I AM, the same yesterday, today, and every day. All Your promises are now, Yes and Amen.

Hallowed be Your name: Show Yourself holy this day of my life in my thoughts, motives, conversations, and actions toward others. Let me not disgrace Your holiness. By Your wonderful names, show me that You are the peace that I need, the victory I want, the guiding security I long to feel.

Your kingdom come: Reign in my life as You rule heaven. Come as King in righteousness, joy, and peace in the Holy Spirit.

Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven: Be done, will of God, for Jesus lives in me delighting to do Your will. In my heart and my tasks, do Your will as it is perfectly done in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread: Let us remember who puts the food on our table and gives us the breath we breathe. You are our moment-by-moment strength for each step we take.

and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors: Thank you for your endless grace that forgives us. You are our Savior. We choose to lay down grudges, bitterness, and unforgiveness we are holding on to because of wrongs against us. I want to keep short accounts, holding no offenses and no unforgiveness.

And Lead us not into temptation: We don't want to act out of my weakness or wounded flesh, which is no excuse, just a plea for more of Your grace. Where sin and the need for healing abound, Your grace much more abounds. You are my Protector.

But Deliver us from evil: Protect us from physical and spiritual harm, because greater are You in us than adversary who is in the world. You are our Deliverer.

IN JESUS NAME, AMEN.

THE UNITY IN PRAYER

Isn't that wonderful to realign our hearts together. As we begin this week Sunday and continue this series together. Today we look at the 2nd part of the Lord's prayer which is in essence the petitions. Jesus calls us to ask the Father. Telling us in Matthew 6:8 Pray then like this. The Lord's prayer is being recited all over the world.

If you look on the screen I want to highlight the UNITY, the community and the plurality of this prayer. UNITY in prayer is powerful.

**“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
10 Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
11 Give us this day our daily bread,
12 and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
13 And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.”**

9 words in 5 verses indicating the communal, holistic, and corporate experience of prayer. The last few weeks there has been a revival going on at Asbury University. Revivals are really marked consistently by confession of sin. Power of prayer stories. The deaf, the lame, the addicted, marriages restored, the lost found by the power of prayer. What has also been most noted is the generational diversity, racial diversity, ultimately **KINGDOM UNITY that happens when God pours out His Spirit in prayer.** God knew you would be here for such a time as this praying together the Lord's prayer, the disciples prayer TOGETHER. Ministries connected here at Fellowship.

Acts 2:42 “**And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.** 43 *And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.* 44 *And all who believed were together and had all things in common.* 45 *And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.* 46 *And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,* **47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”**

Fellowship we **CAN ASK and we must ask God to move.** We are echoing generations of saints who have gone before us. You are STEWARDING THE HISTORY OF FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH DALLAS. We continue to trust the word of God to speak to us. As we go into the next 40 days of prayer as a church let us EXPECT God to move. To hear our prayers together. As we gather this afternoon seeking to Abide together in Christ. Let us do so together.

THE PROVISION OF GOD

Matthew 6:11-13

**11 Give us this day our daily bread,
12 and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
13 And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.”**

We can pray with expectation. That God will hear our prayers. The Lord’s Prayer is a biblical treasure we may take for granted because of its familiarity. We often recite it rather than pray it. When Jesus was teaching His disciples how to pray each line highlights relationships of prayer: child to Father, worshiper to holy God, subject to King in his throne room, servant to Master, beggar to Provider, sinner to Savior, follower to Guide, dependent one to Protector, and subject to Sovereign Glory.

Matthew 6:11 “Give us this day our daily bread”

Jesus told us our heavenly father knows what we need before we even ask. HE wants us to know our need for Him. He longs for you to ask Him, speak to Him. He wants to hear your voice.

This week I had a historic moment with my daughter Lucy. I had my first phone call with her. It was very surreal to hear my 2.5 year old talk on the other end of the phone. “*Hi Dada, I love you dada. How are you? I am very good, thanks, Elsa dress, I am Lucy princess. See you later dada.*” I loved hearing her high-pitched two-year old voice. I loved this conversation more than she could ever imagine. My little girl wanted to talk to me. HOW MUCH MORE does our heavenly father want to give us good gifts.

“Is it all a gift? Then we are to seek every mercy from God by prayer. "Give us this day." The tree of mercy will not drop its fruit unless shaken by the hand of prayer. Whatever we have, if it does not come in the way of prayer, it does not come in the way of love;”
- Thomas Watson

Jesus told us to pray like this. ASK. PETITION. Remember who you're praying to. This is not just food and finances. Our God is the God of all comfort supplying all of our needs in Christ Jesus. He gives you everything you need to obey Him. In just a few breaths after this verse in the same sermon on the mount Jesus tells us don't be anxious. Ask your provider for mental health, freedom from anxiety, and for everything we need to obey Him.

JESUS became our daily bread. The bread of life. He is our ultimate provision, our ultimate joy. He gave His life so that we might have access directly to the Father. He made a way so that we could even pray.

THE FORGIVENESS OF GOD

Mathew 6:12 “and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”

Our heavenly father knows what we need before we even ask. Ask Him for the strength to forgive today. Ask Him for forgiveness.

You can substitute the word debt for sin. But how wonderful that Jesus uses an analogy for sin to teach us this lesson. Debt is real. It is pervasive. Economical debt is often what we think of first. Owing money for something we most likely would have paid on our own if we could have. Our world really runs on debt. We often hold debts over people for years without ever realizing the spiritual implications on our souls.

I want you to think for a moment who do you need to forgive. Judgment, Abuse, Racism, Family trauma, Marriage, Grudges, Church hurt.

The expectation of Jesus is the freedom to ask for forgiveness AS/ while we forgive those who have sinned against us. I dare not manipulate our emotions today. **But** I cannot preach this scripture without giving you a moment today to ASK God to help you forgive. Maybe it is that you need to ask for forgiveness. But I am begging you. Do not wait until it is too late.

[Nelson Mandela Picture](#)

Mandela was imprisoned on Robben Island for 27 years by a racist and cruel Apartheid government. He had every earthly right to seek revenge for how he was treated yet listen to his perspective.

“Resentment is like drinking poison and then hoping it will kill your enemies.”

- Nelson Mandela

Unforgiveness will rob you of years of your life. It will cripple your ability to trust, love and experience all that God has for you. It will ruin your life. A mentor of mine was challenging me to forgive a brother in Christ who I was holding unforgiveness. He told me the story of a man who had wounded him deeply in ministry in his earlier years. This man told him he was not good enough at his ministry role anymore and he was being removed. He confessed that he had held unforgiveness and a grudge against this older pastor for over 25 years. He told me that proving his worth and ability to that man became a silent idol in his life. For 25 years he tried to prove that he was good enough in ministry.

After over 25 years they ran into each other at the funeral of a fellow pastor. My friend said he saw the older pastor who had fired him and even confessed he compared his ministry success to his. He felt ashamed of the anger and pride that had built up in his heart. He nervously tried to avoid the older pastor who had wounded him years earlier. The older pastor walked over to my mentor friend at the funeral service and kindly greeted him. He genuinely asked how he was doing, he even celebrated the ministry success of my friend. He then said “hey we should grab lunch and catch up.” This shocked my friend who had held on to 25 years of bitterness but he agreed to grab lunch and talk. Then again at the graveside memorial of the funeral for their mutual friend the older pastor said hey it's so good to see you here. I've got a great idea, let's meet up for lunch. My friend said sure, didn't we just make plans for that? He now really wanted to meet though. He knew he needed to confess his bitterness and unforgiveness in his heart. But then at the funeral reception back at the church the older pastor greeted him for a third time, and said hey buddy it's so great to see you, I would love to catch up. Want to grab lunch sometime?

As my friend began to correct the older pastor, the reality of the situation struck his heart. The same man he had held onto unforgiveness against for 25 years now had dementia and was rapidly declining into Alzheimer's. My mentor friend walked away politely after agreeing to get lunch for the third time and put his head in his hands and wept. After all these years his anger, unforgiveness, and bitterness was wasted. He wept from his sin.

After telling me this story he emotionally reached across the table, grabbed my hands and begged me, “ADAM DON'T WAIT UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE TO FORGIVE.” Friends, do not let this Sunday go without taking this chance to ask God for the strength to forgive. Forgiveness can only truly be given through Christ. There is freedom to be experienced here today.

Mandela would go on to say.

“Forgiveness liberates the soul, it removes fear. That’s why it’s such a powerful weapon.” - Nelson Mandela

Forgiveness and reconciliation are different. Jesus is asking you to image the character of God the Father as you forgive.

Romans 2:3-4 “Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? 4 Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?”

It is God’s kindness that draws us to repentance. How do we forgive? To forgive sin is for God to cover it. It is God alone who forgives.

Matthew 6:14-15 “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your father who is in heaven will forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your father forgive you your trespasses.” We image JESUS when we lay down our pride and bitterness and forgive. On the cross Jesus cried out father forgive them for they do not know what they do. As image bearers of God forgiving others reveals our sonship and daughtership in Christ. There are no unforgiving people in the kingdom of God. But then who can be saved? With men it is impossible, but with God nothing is impossible.

THE PROTECTION OF GOD

Matthew 6:13 “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”

Our heavenly father knows what we need before we even ask. Ask Him for physical and spiritual protection.

Protection from our own flesh.

And Lead us not into temptation: We don’t want to act out of my weakness or wounded flesh, which is no excuse, just a plea for more of Your grace. Where sin and the need for healing abound, Your grace much more abounds. He is our Protector.

Protection from the enemy, the evil one.

But Deliver us from evil: Protect us from physical and spiritual harm, because greater are You in us than adversary who is in the world. JESUS IS our Deliverer.

JESUS endured temptation in the desert and He delivers us from our sin.

JESUS was tempted by the evil one but conquers the evil one and crushes his head. Jesus defeats sin, death, temptation, and evil.

Conclusion: We pray by faith expected God to hear and move. That our prayers would cause things to happen that would not happen otherwise. This prayer reflects intimacy in family relationship, reverence for the Name above all names, submission to the sovereignty and will of the King, total dependence and reliance on the Giver of every good gift, cleansing from sin by our Redeemer, victory over temptation and ultimate triumph over the evil one by our Deliverer, and the power and glory of our eternal Lord of lords. It covers every aspect of life: relationship with God, with others, and to the forces of spiritual warfare that oppose us each day.

Jesus was in perfect communion with His Father and through this prayer He is inviting us to open our hearts to His. Prayer changes everything, Prayer changes us, Prayer changes our families, Prayer changes our church. As the band comes back up. I want to ask you to stand with me.

Earlier I mentioned taking a moment to pray, to ask God for provision, to ask God for restoration, forgiveness and healing, and to ask God to Stand and read the Lord's Prayer Aloud.

Matthew 6:9-13 ESV

**“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
10 Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
11 Give us this day our daily bread,
12 and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
13 And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.”**

Your Father knows what you need before you ask. Take this moment to ASK + PETITION through prayer. JESUS has made a way. The love of God. Jesus loves you and gave His life for you.