

Embracing Dangerous Prayer: The Heart of a Powerful Church

It's a crazy irony for the modern day Christian and church, as Jesus paid such an incredible price to bring us back into relationship with the Living God, to make the way for each of us to come to God directly and ask for anything, to be heard, to be received and to then have Hi move on behalf of that request, potentially changing the course of eternity...yet, we simply don't choose to do so?!? Our challenge, our privilege and the invitation before us is to extend even the smallest 'seed' of faith in prayer and see mountains move for the glory of God and the souls of men. Will we accept it? Will we pray 'dangerous prayers'— prayers that push boundaries, ignite faith, and transform not only individuals but entire communities?

Mark 11:22-24 (NLTSE)

²²Then Jesus said to the disciples, "Have faith in God. ²³I tell you the truth, you can say to this mountain, 'May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' and it will happen. But you must really believe it will happen and have no doubt in your heart. ²⁴I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you've received it, it will be yours.

The Urgent Call to Pray

At the heart of a vibrant and powerful church is prayer. A church that truly prays acknowledges its desperate need for God. *"A church that prays emphasizes its need for God. A church that does not pray basically says, we've got this, God—we don't need you."*

This statement compels us to confront a crucial question: Are we leaning on God, or are we attempting to navigate life by our own strength? The latter can lead us away from the very guidance and sustenance we need.

The Community Effect of Prayer

Dangerous prayer isn't simply a solo endeavor; it thrives within the united faith of a congregation. When we gather in prayer—whether in small groups, prayer meetings, or during worship times—we stand together, seeking God's will.

Imagine the potential of a church unified in prayer, rising together regularly to intercede for one another. This powerful gathering doesn't just affect our individual lives; it becomes a mighty force capable of influencing our entire community, nation and the world.

Witnessing the Real-Life Impacts of Prayer

There are stories from our congregation that are a testament to the transformative power of prayer, to miracles we've seen and experienced first hand. Many have dealt with significant life changes through their prayer journeys, whether through healing, wisdom during difficult choices, or a sense of peace in the middle of chaos.

When we hear and share these testimonies, we see that prayer is not a mere formality—it's a sacred and essential connection to God. Listening to these accounts serves as a powerful reminder that prayer leads to remarkable outcomes.

Overcoming the Fear to Pray

Despite its power, so many of us hold back from praying, often due to fear. Fear of being vulnerable, fear of judgment, or the fear of not knowing what to say can paralyze even the most sincere desires to connect with God. Here's the challenge: we have to trust God, confront and overcome those fears. Engaging in dangerous prayer means stepping outside our comfort zones. It invites us to take a leap of faith, trusting fully in God's promises.

When we allow ourselves to be vulnerable in prayer, we open up to God's transformative processes. Dangerous prayer cultivates a faith that is not just alive, but also propels us forward in our walk as Christians.

Conclusion: An Invitation to Pray Boldly

I invite each of you to step into this journey of prayer. It's joining a prayer group, participating in community prayer meetings, setting aside time each day to pray to God on your own and dare to pray impossible prayers to the God who is Omnipotent, Omniscient and a truly Good Father.

Remember, *"When we embrace 'dangerous prayer', we become a 'dangerous church'—one that is alive, active, and fully reliant on God, pushing back the darkness with the light of the Gospel!"*

Let's move forward together, committing to be a community that seeks God earnestly. Together, we can create a culture where prayer becomes our lifeblood, inviting God into every aspect of our lives, our families, our church and the world around us.