



We've Never Prayed This.
But We're Going to Now.

April 9, 2017 | WONDERFUL MERCY CHURCH

The Thing We've Never Prayed

- For all the ways in which we have made prayer foundational to what we do and who we, there's something we've never prayed for in a focused, purposeful manner
- What haven't we prayed for? Numbers. Specifically, an increase of numbers here at Wonderful Mercy Church

We Don't Want the Numbers to Increase

- We like things the way they are
- We love what God has done here—we know it's a rare thing and we don't want to endanger it

God Doesn't Want the Numbers to Increase

- For two decades we haven't grown appreciably and maybe that's because we're not supposed to
- 1 Corinthians 3:6 tells us that it's "God who brings the growth," and if we haven't grown God must not want us to

Numbers Are Not Spiritual Enough To Pray For

- **1 Samuel 16:7b** NIV

“The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

- Our conviction: God doesn't care about numbers, so why would we pray for them?

We Don't Want to Put Our Hearts on the Line

- We don't believe it's a prayer God will answer—we've never grown before, why would we now?
- James 4:2 tells us “you do not have because you do not ask,” and we do not ask because we're afraid to

We Don't Trust Our Own Motives

- **James 4:3**

“And when you do ask you don't receive, because you ask with wrong motives—you only want to satisfy your own desires.”

- Our motives? Jesus took them to the cross, too, gathering our flawed motives into his perfect, pure motives

Your Lead Pastor Has Never Called For It

- What I am interested in and passionate about I transmit to the congregation; this is how influence and spiritual authority work
- Praying for numbers? We haven't done it because I haven't done it

Why Pray for Numbers?

- Because there are people who need what's available here
- Because this isn't our church. It's His.
- Because Father is inviting us to

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- Calling the body to pray at 10:10 for increased numbers at Wonderful Mercy. Pray anything else you want, but pray this first
- Pray for 10 new families in 10 weeks
 - until June 18, Father's Day
 - Be alert: you may be involved in the answer to your prayer (see Matthew 9:38 - 10:1)



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