

4. How can we strike a balance between praying for personal desires and aligning our prayers with God's will?
 - Pastor Craig encourages bringing all aspects of our lives and desires before God, knowing that He is our loving Father who longs to give us the desires of our hearts. However, he also cautions against falling into a 'health and wealth' theology that treats God as a cosmic errand boy.
 - What steps can you take to grow in praying according to God's will, while still sharing your personal desires with Him?

5. How did the story of Bob praying for Kenya demonstrate the power of faith in prayer?
 - In the sermon, Pastor Craig shares the story of a man named Bob who prayed for Kenya without any personal connections or prior knowledge of the country. Through his prayers, God orchestrated a series of events that led to significant impact and answered prayers in Kenya.
 - Can you think of a time when your faith in prayer led to an unexpected result or testimony? If not, how can you grow in faith and expect God to move through your prayers?

Prayer Prompts:

Pray for a deeper understanding of faith and its role in our prayer life. Ask God to help each group member grow in faith and confidence in Him, beyond what their senses or current circumstances indicate.

Pray for a correct understanding and application of praying in Jesus' name. Ask God to help us align our prayers with His will and everything that Jesus stands for.

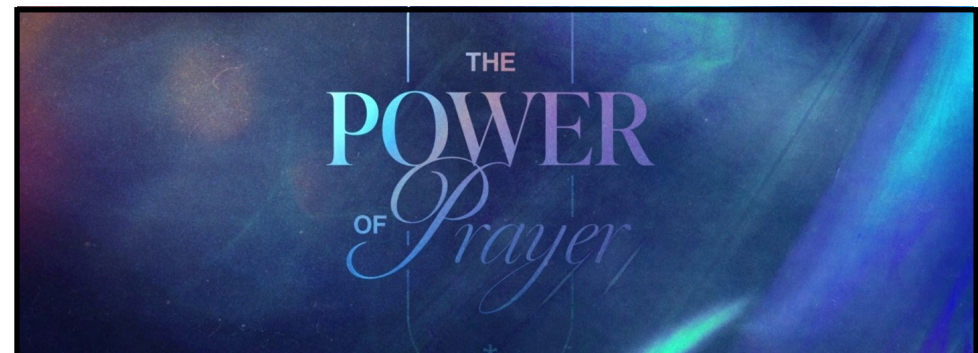
Pray for a balance in our prayers. Ask God to help us bring all aspects of our lives and desires before Him, knowing He is our loving Father, without treating Him as a "cosmic errand boy."

Pray for a deepening of our relationship with God through faith. Ask God to help us please Him and invite Him to work in our lives through our faith, just as Bob did for Kenya.



If you are a first time guest, or have not connected with South Reno in the past, we would love to connect with you! You can use your phone and text "Welcome" to 775.204.1881 or scan the QR code.

SCAN ME



Week 4

Big Idea:

Pastor Craig discusses the role of faith in experiencing God's power through prayer. Faith is essential in prayer and aligning ourselves with God unleashes His power. Praying in Jesus' name means praying in alignment with His will and seeing His work accomplished. Faith goes beyond belief and trust, it is a settled conviction in something beyond our senses or circumstances. Prayer should encompass all areas of our lives, and when we have faith, God listens, cares, and answers.

Primary Text:

¹⁸ Early the next morning Jesus went back to the city. He was hungry. ¹⁹ He saw a single fig tree beside the road, but when he came up to it he found nothing on it except leaves.

'May you never bear fruit, ever again!' he said to it. Instantly the fig tree withered up. ²⁰ The disciples saw it, and were astonished. 'Look how quickly the fig tree has withered up!' they said.

²¹ 'I'm telling you the truth,' replied Jesus. 'If you have faith, and don't doubt, you will not only be able to do this to a fig tree, but if you say to this mountain, "Be lifted up and thrown into the sea", it will happen. ²² Whatever you ask in prayer, you'll get it, if you believe.'

Matthew 21:18-22 (The Bible for Everyone)

¹² The person who trusts me will not only do what I'm doing but even greater things, because I, on my way to the Father, am giving you the same work to do that I've been doing. You can count on it. ¹³ From now on, whatever you request along the lines of who I am and what I am doing, I'll do it. That's how the Father will be seen for who he is in the Son. I mean it. ¹⁴ Whatever you request in this way, I'll do.

John 14:11-14 (MSG)

Notes:

For Further Study

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions and scriptures are designed to help you take that next step.

Ice Breaker:

- If you could add a ridiculous holiday to the calendar, what would it be and how would we celebrate it?

Discussion Questions:

1. How would you define faith in the context of prayer?
 - In the sermon, Pastor Craig explains that faith is more than just belief or trust - it is a settled conviction and a confidence in something or someone beyond what our senses or current circumstances may indicate.
 - How can you apply this definition of faith to your own prayer life?
2. What does it mean to pray in Jesus' name?
 - Pastor Craig clarifies that praying in Jesus' name goes beyond simply ending a prayer with the phrase 'in Jesus' name.' It means praying in alignment with everything that Jesus represents and stands for, and for the work of Jesus to go forward.
 - How can you ensure that your prayers are aligned with Jesus' will and character?
3. Why do you think some people may not experience the power of prayer as described in the Bible passages?
 - Pastor Craig refers to Matthew 17:20 where Jesus tells his disciples that their lack of faith is the reason they were unable to do the works he did. This demonstrates that faith is essential in prayer.
 - What are some obstacles that might hinder your faith in prayer, and how can you overcome them?