

# COME, LET'S PRAY TOGETHER

Jesus wants us to pray together!

## KEY POINTS

- ❖ Matthew 17 and Mark 9 tell the story where Jesus' disciples couldn't cast a demon out of a mute boy who suffered from seizures. The boy's father came to Jesus and begged Him to have mercy on his son. Jesus rebuked the demon and healed the boy.
- ❖ Later, the disciples asked why they were unable to drive the demon out. Jesus said it was because of their unbelief. He also said "that kind" could only come out by prayer and fasting (Mk. 9:29 NKJV).
- ❖ The spiritual battle is real. It can't be won – and will actually be lost – if we engage it primarily at the worldly level of logic and emotions. As Jesus said, "This type can only come out by prayer and fasting."
- ❖ The strength of a church can be gauged by the strength of its praying people. Now, by definition we don't measure the strength of peoples' private prayer lives. But we have a good proxy for that in the vitality of corporate prayer. There's an urgent need for us to prioritize praying together again.
- ❖ In the prayer Jesus taught His disciples to pray, note that He didn't use the singular, He used the plural. He didn't say, "My Father" but "Our Father". Not, "Give me today my daily bread" but "Give us today our daily bread."
- ❖ When we pray in united prayer...  
**We pray for God's will to be done because He knows best.**
- ❖ Matthew 6:9: "This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven....'" We open our prayer times by acknowledging **who** and **where** God is.
- ❖ God is our Father. Except, more than just a father who participated in creating us, God is the *very source* of our life who intentionally crafted our DNA – both physical and spiritual – for a distinct purpose.
- ❖ But we also remind ourselves of where He is. The prophet Isaiah described Him as "the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity" (Is. 57:15). He is in no way bound by any limitations. Everything exists inside of Him for Him to engage and dispatch at His pleasure.  
**We pray for God's provision, then we can learn how to give.**
- ❖ "Give us today our daily bread" (Matt. 6:11). This is our petition to God. Bread is a staple food in many cultures, depended on throughout the year, in every season. As God's children, we never take for granted the blessings of the essentials in our life.
- ❖ Jesus then pivots from physical to spiritual provision:

## KEY SCRIPTURES:

Matthew 6:9-15, 17:14-20; Mark 9:14-29

- "And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors" (v. 12).
- ❖ We ask God to wipe away our deficits, as He can do this without any loss to Himself. Then God's provision enables *us* to give.
- ❖ And we can appeal to God's own principle of sowing and reaping by saying, "Look, we've exercised this same grace [of forgiving and giving] to others."
- ❖ Then there are the vagaries of life, the curveballs that can knock the wind out of us.  
**We pray for God to deliver us from evil because only He can.**
- ❖ "And lead us not into temptation..." (v. 13) is sometimes a confusing request. James 1:13 tells us that when tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." God can't be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt any of us. We are tempted when we are dragged away by our own evil desire and enticed.
- ❖ A dictionary definition of "tempt" is "entice or attempt to entice (someone) to do or acquire something that they find attractive but know to be wrong or not beneficial."
- ❖ God doesn't do this. He doesn't try to make us evil. In the end, only God can "*deliver* us from evil" (Matt. 6:13). And we know that's a key reason He wants us to pray together. If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7:14)

## DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Share biblical examples and benefits of God's people praying together (corporate prayer). What were some of the results?
2. What are possible drawbacks to corporate prayer and how can they be overcome?
3. Discuss/describe in the group, your "perfect mix" of individual and corporate prayer.
4. Use the address/link below for your FS Friday Night Prayer Meetings @ 7:30 p.m.: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84821029009>

## PRAYER TIME

Lord, I am thankful that it's Your kingdom, Your power and Your glory, forever and ever. Amen.

## WEEK OF SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

## NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

- ✓ (Reminds me/Confirms)
- 💡 (New idea)
- ☁️ (Think about)
- ⚡ (Do this)
- ❤️ (Speaks to my heart)
- ↔️ (Must share)

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## PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

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Go deeper with your Life Group family.  
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD  
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

Start-up: As you grew up (and/or now) which parent were you most likely to approach when you wanted something, or permission for something?