

Lately God has been teaching me that prayer is not merely a discipline of the Christian life—it is its lifeblood. Through prayer we acknowledge our dependence on God, align our hearts with His purposes, and invite His transforming power into our homes, our ministries, and our churches. Hudson Taylor captured this beautifully when he said, “When we work, we work. When we pray, God works.” Because prayer is so central to our experience of God’s power, Belle Aire is declaring 2026 to be the “Year of Prayer,” calling our church to seek the Lord with renewed urgency and expectancy. Flowing from that conviction, the following three sermon outlines are offered to stir believers toward deeper, bolder, God-dependent prayer—prayer through which He delights to move in hearts, homes, and congregations for His glory.

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Sermon 1

“Ask, Seek, Knock”

Matthew 7:7-11

Main Idea: Our heavenly Father wants us to ask him for things, because he delights to give good things to his children.

1. The Command to Ask, Seek, and Knock

- “Ask, seek, and knock” are commands
- What are we to ask for? Answer: “good things” (v. 11), especially spiritual, kingdom things

Luke 11:13

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!

Matthew 6:33

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

2. The Promise for Asking, Seeking, and Knocking

- "Ask . . . and you will receive"
- "Seek . . . and you will find"
- "Knock . . . and the door will be opened"

Conditions for asking and receiving:

(1) You must be a child of God (implied in vv. 9-11)

(2) You must ask with right motives

James 4:3

You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

(3) You must ask according to God’s will

1 John 5:14

And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.

3. The Basis for Asking, Seeking, and Knocking

- Verses 9-11 teach us that God’s fatherly love and care is the reason we can ask and receive, seek and find, knock and have the door open before us.

Sermon 2

“A Praying Church”

Acts 4:23-31

Main Idea: No prayer, no power.

1. Who Prayed (vv. 23-24)

- Not just the apostles, but everyone

2. To Whom They Prayed (vv. 24-28)

- v. 24, “Sovereign Lord . . .”

(1) He’s in Charge of Creation (v. 24b)

(2) He’s in Charge of History (vv. 25-28)

Ephesians 1:11

God works all things according to the counsel of his will.

Daniel 4:35

God does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, “What have you done?”

3. What They Prayed (vv. 29-30)

(1) Boldness in the Face of Persecution (v. 29)

(2) A Demonstration of God’s Power (v. 30)

4. How God Answered (v. 31)

(1) By Filling Them with His Spirit (v. 31a)

* When their prayers went up, God’s power came down.

(2) By Giving Them Boldness for Witness (v. 31b)

Sermon 3

“Praying Like It Matters”

James 5:16-18

Main Idea: Any Christian can pray powerful prayers that effect real change.

1. Righteous People Can Pray Like It Matters (v. 16b)

Psalms 66:18

If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

1 Peter 3:7

Husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

2. Ordinary People Can Pray Like It Matters (vv. 17-18)

Acts 14:11-15

11 And when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lycaonian, “The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!” 12 Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. 13 And the priest of Zeus, whose temple was at the entrance to the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds. 14 But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their garments and rushed out into the crowd, crying out, 15 “Men, why are you doing these things? **We also are men, of like nature with you**, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them.

3. Willing People Can Pray Like It Matters (vv. 16-17)

James 4:2

You do not have, because you do not ask.