

# SERMON TRANSCRIPT

DATE

January 20, 2019

SPEAKER

Dave Owen

SERIES

Pray Like This...

PART

4

TITLE

Pray For Righteousness

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 6:13; Psalm 7:1-11



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Good morning to you, Providence. I hope you are doing well this morning. It is good to see you. If you're a guest with us this morning, we want to say a special welcome to you as well. If you're live streaming with us, good morning to you as well.

My name's Dave. I'm one of the pastors here. Our lead pastor, Brian, he along with our mission pastor, Phil, and a few of the team gave headed to central Asia, there for about a week or so to encourage a lot of the workers that are in that part of the world. it's a pretty intense area, so they're laboring to encourage those that serve so well.

It is good to see you. I hope you have your Bible. If you do, Matthew chapter 6 this morning. Matthew chapter 6. If you don't have a Bible, if you're new to Christianity, we're glad you're exploring it and you're here. There's a Bible under the seat, and we'll be on page 811 in that particular Bible. 811 or you can turn your Bible on.

I'm finishing up this morning this series on prayer. We've done four weeks on that. It's been an exciting time to really unpack the Lord's Prayer. I'm extremely grateful that talking to God is not like trying to talk to a live operator on your cell phone. Great Scott, I get so frustrated. I'm confessing my sin to you here as I tend to yell at the automated voice on the other end.

They ask you, "What do you want so we can point you?" It's an automated voice. It's not a real live person. I just want to talk to a live person so I can ask questions. They'll say, "What area would you like to ...," and I'll just shout, "Operator!" Then, "Yes, but who do you want to talk to? Why? Why are you calling?" the automat-ed. "Operator!" Just screaming at it. I'll just hit it and then just hang up, just totally frustrated.

I'm just glad talking to God is not like that. Think about that. We have more access to God than someone that can help me with my phone. Great Scott, my goodness. Confession time, I yell at my phone. If you see me at a spotlight yelling at my phone, I'm trying to talk to someone live. I just want to talk to someone live that could respond. My, oh my. Okay, so that's out of the way. Grateful, grateful to be here.

Listen. This series we looked at, did we not, the first week of just remembering how compassionate God was, that we could pray to him, that he loves us, that he desires for us. We run to him like a child jumps to dad when he comes home. We looked at the reality that he's capable. He's capable to handle anything and everything that we bring to him. He has more capacity in him than we have request in us. We looked at that.

We looked at how we should hallow his name. This isn't a word that we use a lot in our day and time, but Pastor Brian, he unpacked that for us in this sense of adoration. How do we adore God as Father? We talked through that and it really set us up, did it not, to when we see God not make him big, but we see him big, right? It puts everything in perspective, right? It takes you a little low and it humbles you, and that's a good place to be, to be dependent on him.

Then it leads you to see how great and holy he is and how unholy we are. It leads us to confession, which we looked at last night, that as you fall short of honoring God, you don't have to live in this mindset or this state of this sense of failure, but there's actually forgiveness available to you, that he gives forgiveness. We sang that last song last week. It's written on our heart, forgiven. What glorious, glorious good news to know that God, as holy as he is and as wretched as we are that he forgives us.

Then this morning, we'll look at just this few petitions that he closes out with. Before we dive into it and finish out this teaching on prayer, let's actually pray and talk to him, okay? Let's go.

Father in heaven, you are the great God. There is none like you, as Moses wrote in Exodus 15, there's none, no not one, that's like you. We come humbly before you today. We come with all of our stuff from this past week and all of our stuff that we'll face this week and just ask, I'm asking God, that you would remove distractions, that you would eliminate those things that so easily entangle us, and that you could help us to see once again, see your Son high, lifted, the one who has set down, the one who cried, "It is finished." God, would you speak? Would you be so kind once again, please, and teach us. We pray in Christ's name, amen.

Matthew chapter 6, let's read verses 9 to 13. Matthew chapter 6. This is the context, right? Christ from chapter 5 to 7 is teaching the Sermon on the Mount. He comes to this particular part of his sermon where he is trying to teach those that are following him, his disciples, those that want to be like him. They're learning. They're just in a posture of learning, and they want to know how to pray.

He says in verse 9, "Pray then like this. Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on Earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." Verse 13, "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

Two things that Jesus tells us to pray for. They're very clear in the text. The first one I'm going to spend more time on unpacking a few things and then we'll close with the second one. The first is this if you're taking notes. Jesus desires for us to pray for protection in temptation. He desires. He desires for us to pray for protection in temptation. He says specifically to pray like this, to lead us not into temptation.

Listen. If Satan's goal, the enemy, is for you to sin, the path to get you there starts with temptation. If it's his goal, and it is, then it starts with temptation. It's not wise. it's not wise to swim in the sea of temptation where sin abounds.

This week as I was studying and came upon this amazing story out in Hawaii. I wasn't there. I just read it. I wish I was. I read where these divers were once again exploring the nature of sharks, which right off the bat, that's messed up anyway, right? If you're a shark lover, Pastor Brian will be back next week.

Here's what we've got. They're out there. There's this massive whale that is dead, and these sharks are feeding on this dead whale, massive. The swimmers, these doctors that are studying the ways sharks do things, notice it looks like another whale coming at them, and they realize it is who they have named. They saw her five years ago. She's probably 50 years old, two and a half tons, what is believed to be the largest shark in all of the waters. They've named her Deep Blue, right? This is a picture of Deep Blue that they found this week that came up.

Now, I'm thinking if the whale's the main meal, the people are the appetizers, right? I'm like, "Why are you swimming with a shark that weighs two and half tons?" It's fascinating. As they explored and took amazing photos, it was incredible. I was reading an article about their experience.

Now, hang on to this one. You ready? This is what they say. "It's not wise to swim with sharks." Are you kidding? Why are you doing it then? That's what I'm asking. Why are you petting a shark? Oh, my. Then it says this. This is the line that caught my attention. It says, "They are unpredictable." Oh, my. Just leave that one alone, okay. It's not wise to swim with sharks. They are unpredictable.

Listen. Temptation is predictable. Sin is predictable. He's coming after you. The temptation's clear. When you're sitting there and you start to wrestle with, "Should I? Should I not?" it's predictable where Satan wants to take you. He wants to take you down a path, right? He wants to lead you down a path.

This is what sin does. It promises more than it can ever pay. It costs you more than you think, and it keeps you longer than you want to stay every single time. This is why James, the half brother of Jesus, would say in James chapter 1, "Each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire, when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death," the idea of disaster and devastation.

Think about that. Each person is tempted when he is lured. This is the idea of trying to attract you into sin. This is the way fisherman ... When I used to fish a lot growing up in Virginia, I would use a fishing lure that I would throw. It'd look a lot like this picture. I would throw it in, and I would just pull it a little bit, shake it a little bit, trying to get that bass to bite it.

What happens is that the beauty of that temptation, it always covered the hooks. The hooks never outshined the bait. Yet it grabbed, and it held. This is what sin does. It grabs you. Temptation, it lures you. It entices you.

This word entice, it carries with it the idea of soliciting. You've seen these signs all over the place, right? No soliciting. Do not distribute. This is what we need in a sense to put in our heart every day, no soliciting sin. Leave me alone. It's enticing you. it's soliciting you. It's trying to draw you in, in hopes that it would give birth to sin. Then sin ultimately fully grows into death.

See, Proverbs 6:27 says it like this. “Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned?” Can he? Listen. Temptation is the invitation from the enemy to sin. It’s knocking at your door every single day. You get an invitation in the mail. You open it up. You RSVP, et cetera, right? This is sin. Sin is an invitation to sin. If you read the invitation long enough, you’ll give into it.

Jesus tells us to pray not to even be led into it. I’ve got to ask this question. How do we pray in such a way that we wouldn’t even get near the path of temptation, that we wouldn’t open the invitation to sin? I want to give you five helps, just five. They’re very simple, but I’m praying that they’re just five helps as you and I, we all face this. It’s soliciting us every single day, every single morning when we start our day.

The first one is this, is to pray God would help you. Pray God would help you follow the right person, namely Jesus. To follow someone means biblically to learn from them, and lean into them, and love what they love, and listen to them, and lay your life down in order to follow their ways above your ways.

Everyone is screaming in our culture to follow this or follow that, but when you set your eyes on Christ, sometimes when you follow Christ and now the crowd, it’s lonely. It’s lonely, but listen, it’s worth it. This is why Hebrew 12 would actually say to fix your eyes on him. It’s not a glance. You don’t glance at him. You fix your eyes on Christ, the author and perfecter of our faith.

In Italy a few years back, there was a massive marathon there, a big race. A lot of your top runners from all over the world, many from Kenya were there that were anticipated to win easily. A group of the leaders are running the marathon, and they’re on mile 16, and they’re following the motorcade that has the cameras. As the motorcade gets to mile 16, they know it’s time for them to get off the trail and then unleash the last 10 miles. They just go after it, right?

All of these leaders, they’ve got a two to three minute lead on most everybody else. The whole entire pack, as the motorcade leads off into a major highway, the whole crew follows them. This is what happens. I’ll show you a pic real quick. See, their hands are out. Cars are coming by them. They realize that they’re run onto a main highway where it’s not shut down and cars are coming, so they have to turn around, go back to the race. A local guy from the town actually won. Never won hardly anything. That stunk for those guys, didn’t it?

Listen. You’ve got to make sure you know who you’re following or they’ll lead you anywhere. Let’s fix our eyes on Christ.

The second is this. We’ve not only got to follow the right person, but we’ve got to fight the right war. Ephesians will tell us this. In wartime when military, when they go in, if they’re trying to protect or they’re trying to go advance, they’re studying. They’re studying the tactics of the enemy. They understand specifically what’s taking place, right?

In football or basketball, you're watching film, you're watching game. The Chiefs have been watching the Patriots. They're watching film. The Chiefs are going to take the Patriots down tonight. Okay then, all right. They're watching the film, right? They're watching it. They're studying the film. They know exactly what's coming.

For you and I as believers, listen, Paul says specifically to know, listen, Ephesians chapter 6, "We are not fighting against flesh-and-blood, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world." There's a real spiritual dimension to the war that we're in.

I remember The Screwtape Letters reading years ago and how one of the older demons in that is training a younger demon of how to entice and how to capture people especially in the West. He says, "Listen. Most people around the world, they're going to be probably willing to maybe die for their faith, so we're just going to go after maybe even the physical aspect of things in the demonic realm. But in the west," he goes, "Look, most only want comfort and safety. Whatever you do, let's just keep them as comfortable as possible and we go them." That's Lewis's imaginary writings of the demonic world and how it works.

He says, "Listen. Let's follow the right person. Let's fight the right war. Let's pray." Ephesians 6 says specifically to stand firm and to pray, to lean in to these things. That's why he tells us to put on the whole armor of God in chapter 6 of Ephesians.

But third, third let's do this. Let's pray, pray that God would help you faith it the right way. Let me unpack this. Pray that God would help you faith it the right way. Not fake it, but faith it. What do I mean by that? I mean this. When you don't feel like coming to church and being with the people of God and you do, that's faith. That's a trust that something good's going to come. There's going to be mutual encouragement. It's going to be edified through the Word.

When you don't feel like singing worship songs that are filled with truth and you do it, that's not faking it. That's faithing it. You're leaning in. Maybe doubts have been swarming through the head and flooding the heart. When you sing these truths, that is it finished, it is finished, it causes faith to rise in those moments.

When you don't feel like taking notes that will stir your mind and sit on your head, and maybe that's faith that's going from groaning to growing. When you don't feel like praying and you get on your face at home. Sometimes, listen, I've been there. I know you've been there. Sometimes it's just silence. You don't know what to say. You don't have anything to say. You're spent, but you're on your face before God, crying out to God. Your heart's crying. Your mouth's not saying a word, but your heart, he knows. He knows where you are. That's faith. You're trusting. You're leaning in, as hard as it is.

Listen. When you don't share your struggles with others and then you come to a point where you do, he's sort of stripped you of trying to front and be all that you're not, you're vulnerable, you're real, it hurts a little bit. It's faith. You're trusting. You're sick of faking it. You're worn out. Faith, you're trusting that this brother and sister is going to pray for me. This brother and sister's for me. It's faith.

Listen. Listen. When you don't feel like sharing the gospel, when you don't feel like sharing the gospel, doubts are flooding your heart. Parenting's hard, work's hard, life's hard, physically maybe you're waiting on a report to come back. I mean the last thing you want to do is go tell somebody about Jesus. Let's just be real, right? Let's just be real with each other.

But listen. In faith, when you step out, broken, and you open your mouth, and you begin to share the gospel, you begin to talk about Christ, what's happening in that moment is your faith is growing in that moment. It's in that moment when you're sharing, you don't feel like sharing, but you know the Spirit of God is stirring your heart, and you know the individual you're talking to apart from Christ is eternity apart from God. You begin to share, and confidence begins to swell, not in you but in what you're sharing. Your faith begins to grow.

Listen. If you're struggling while you're striving towards God, it's actually a sign you're growing. If you're struggling while you're striving towards God, it's actually a sign that you're growing. Listen. Pray that God would help you faith it the right way.

Pray God would help you find, the fourth here, pray that God would help you find the right Life Group right away. Pray that God would help you find the right Life Group right away. Listen. Isolation is the ally of the enemy. The enemy wants this. If he can isolate you from other believers, this is one of his first strategies to lead you down a path of temptation into sin.

Listen. This is why one of our first memory verses for this year is Hebrews 10 verses 24 and 25 that tells us, listen, "Don't forsake the gathering together." Don't forsake that. "Let's consider how." You can't consider how to stir up each other if you're not with each other. Let's consider how we could stir up each other, because some are in the habit of not being together, and that's where the enemy wants you. He wants you to be isolated.

Listen. The animal kingdom gets this. Have you ever thought about that? Like these fish that swim in these large schools, right? When Deep Blue is coming, hello, Deep Blue, two and a half ton, 50 year old mama shark, when from a distance you've got 5,000 small fish swimming together, from a distance Deep Blue's eyesight's not good enough to interpret that that's a school or a bunch of small fish. They think it's larger, so they turn and they leave.

Birds that fly together in a flock together as they travel, you've seen this happen all over the place in the sky. That's intentional. God designed them that way. What happens is as they take turns at the front, whoever's flying front adjusts and does something with their wings to impact the air behind so the ones behind don't have to work as hard. They're drafting in a sense. Use some NASCAR racing. They're drafting, so they don't have to work as hard. What happens is they can endure and go longer. Then when upfront gets tired, they kind of move to the back and another one moves up front, and then they set the course. They do that so they don't have to keep stopping, but they can get to where they're going.

This is what's happening with the people of God. We're headed somewhere, to get this gospel to all people as fast as possible. We can't do it alone.

Think about the animals when they travel. You've seen the History Channel, or the Animal Kingdom show, or whatever that show is on cable where they're all kind of traveling together, and then you see one that thinks they can do it on their own. They ease off, and they go to get a little something to eat or something. It's bye-bye, isn't it? Because that tiger's sitting over there in the corner, getting ready.

It never does well. It never goes well when you leave the herd, and the same is with the people of God. Look. We're not trying to just get you in a Life Group. Listen. This is to help you to endure. This is to help you fight temptation. This is good. Pray that God would help you fight the right fight, yes, and faith it the right way, but find the right Life Group right away.

The last is Paul that God would help you flee from sin and pursue righteousness. To flee from sin and pursue righteousness. 2nd Timothy chapter 2 says it like this, "So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace." To flee these things and pursue these things. Don't try to interpret the temptation. Don't try to translate the temptation. Flee it. That means run, right? That's what it means. It doesn't mean like casually look at it a little bit, and take a couple steps, and try to figure out what it is or how bad. It says turn and run. That's what flee means, right?

It's like a video I saw this week of the guy texting in California, and he runs. There's a black bear that's loose. The news channel's overtop, and the new channel has got the camera down, because they're trying to get the dart guns or however they're going to take him out. He's just walking. He's looking for some food in the trash cans. He's in a neighborhood, a big old black bear, right? He's just walking along, and the camera sees, and then out of the peripheral of the sky chopper, they see a dude walking and texting. He's not looking. You shouldn't drive and text. You shouldn't walk and text. Okay?

He's texting away, and he gets about 10 feet. You know in your peripheral sometimes you feel like somebody's there. You might take a glance. Well, with a big black bear there, he took a glance. He didn't just like, "How you doing?" He moved so fast that the cameras couldn't keep up with him. This is what he's saying. Listen, flee from it.



John Stott, pastor for many years in London at All Souls Church, passed away a few years back, but he says this about this fleeing one thing and pursuing another. He says, “So then we are both to run away from spiritual danger and run after spiritual good. Both to flee from the one in order to escape it and to pursue the other in order to attain it. This double duty of Christians.”

“Thus, we are to deny ourselves and to follow Christ. We are to put off what belongs to the old life and put on what belongs to the new. We’re to put to death our earthly members and so set our minds on heavenly things. We’re to crucify the flesh and to walk in the Spirit. It is this ruthless rejection of the one in combination with the relentless pursuit of the other which scripture enjoins upon us as the secret to holiness.”

Listen. Let me just remind you, we strive in prayer because we have been saved by Christ. He has accomplished everything in his death, burial, and resurrection. We strive in prayer because he has saved us, not in order for him to save us. We have resources as followers of Christ.

If you’re not a believer this morning, we want you to experience this, to trust him and place in faith and then walk with him, praying with him in this war called life. We want you to build your life on Christ, his Word, his Spirit, the people of God.

Listen. Listen. In prayer, as we’re praying to lead us not into temptation, as you’re building your life, listen, temptation is going to come. It’s going to solicit you every single day of your life. But if you’re building it, if you’re walking with people, if you’re faithing it, if you’re fleeing because of what he’s done in his grace and mercy, you’re going to be able to stand the temptation.

Matter of fact, let me put it this way. The temptations, they don’t go away, but they’re not as loud. The knock is always there. It’s just not as loud as you’re pursuing God, crying out to God.

As you build your house on these things, listen, listen, it’ll be able to stand when the big temptations come, much like this house stood during last year hurricane Michael down in Mexico Beach, the panhandle, right? These folks, they decided they would build their house to withstand a category five. Michael hit as the third most powerful, winds 150 miles an hour, and on the water they were able to stand because they had prepared for the worst. As you prepare for these temptations, know that, listen, you’re anchoring your faith and your hope in Christ. You’re anchoring it in Christ.

Listen. The towers, the two towers in New York took four plus years to build them, four plus years to build them, and they fell in 12 seconds. 12 seconds. The enemy wants to take you down. He wants to take you out. It won’t start with a blow. It’ll start with a whisper. It’ll start with a simple invitation to go down this path.

1st Corinthians 10 tells it like this. “The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.”

Let our prayers always contain a plea for protection in temptation. Let our prayers. This is Christ. Of all the things that he could have said, he included this. Is this showing up in your daily prayers? God, keep me from messing it up today. Keep me once again today, God. Please lead me down this path of righteousness and not that of temptation.

Listen. He desires for us to pray, yes, for protection in temptation, but second and really quick he desires for us to pray for provision from evil. For provision from evil. Imagine this text. Imagine this man, Jesus himself. He’s teaching on this. Does he contemplate as he’s teaching that he will actually endure the greatest of all evils? Does he side note it? Does it maybe make it into the text? Does he give a commentary on this idea of deliverance from evil, that he is the one that is going to endure the greatest of all evil and being killed, the most righteous man, being slain, the most righteous lamb?

This man, does he? Because what he’s done, listen, he has provided a way for you and I to be delivered from the greatest of all evil, right? Death and sin itself through his death on a cross, and burial, and resurrection. If he’s done that, if he’s done that, he could also provide ways and patterns to get us out of evil schemes.

He has provides resources in confession and repentance, right? He has provided his Spirit who lives in us. He’s provided his Word that says if we hide it in our heart we’ll be able not to sin against God. He’s provided his sovereignty that somehow what is meant for evil when evil’s done, it can be actually turned to good, in both the life of Joseph and Jesus himself seen. He’s provided mercy every single morning. He’s prayed even in John 17, “I do not ask that you take them out of the world, Father, but that you keep them from the evil one.”

This is why we love singing songs that say, “It is well with my soul. Though Satan should buffet.” That means he punches us with a fist, the idea of the word buffet. “Though Satan should buffet, though trial should come, let this blest assurance control, that Christ has regarded my helpless estate, and has shed his own blood for my soul.”

Listen. Prayer, oh my. Prayer is the jackhammer that cracks the concrete to get to the busted pipe. This is what we are doing when we’re crying out to him. The gospel’s the balm in a sense that restores and brings life and righteousness to the heart that can change a culture.

Listen. The pit of sin and evil that you may find yourself in even this morning is never, ever too deep or out of the reach of God. Isaiah 59 says, “Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save.” Whatever pit you may find yourself in, oh no, there is an arm that can reach that far.

We find ourselves today in a culture, in a culture that even this day is set aside to pray for the unborn. It's Sanctity of Life Sunday. Think about even that we have to have a day like that. It grieves the heart, a day where millions for the last 40-plus years. There's so much healing and so much hope that's found in Christ, but we want to be a people that take a stand for that voice that cannot be heard but that cries loud. We want to be a people who take a stand in prayer that righteousness would abound. We want to be a people who celebrate even tomorrow the life of Martin Luther King Junior and all that he stood for in racial reconciliation moments. Preaching the love of Christ would be the only thing that can transform the heart.

How fitting it is on a series for prayer that we actually do it. Here's what we're going to do. We're going to spend a few minutes right now just where you are praying to God, asking. Maybe there's temptations that are flooding your soul. They're in your inbox every day, right? For an opportunity to pray. Then two of our elders are going to come, and those two are going to lead us in prayer for sanctity of life and racial tensions that we still experience, that God would move and work through those things. If you would, let's bow and pray together.

Speaker 2: Father, we come before you and we praise you. You are so good and we love you so much. You are our treasure, and our desire is for your glory. Father, we can't help but stand before you and confess sin as we think of what we're celebrating tomorrow and the problems that we have not just in our country, but in the whole world with the race reconciliation.

Father, this is my sin. It's all of our sin. The reason it's sin is because you've created us all in your image. When we, when I, when we have looked at others as anything less or as anything more, Father, it is an assault upon your glory. We have sinned against you. Forgive us, Father. Have mercy on us.

Father, we've also sinned by turning to things other than you to fix this. We've taken a spiritual ill and we've tried to address it with fleshly means through dependence on political parties, and platforms, and laws, and accusations, and even denial. All of these, Father, will not work. You are the only God and the only great equalizer. What you've given us to reconcile men to each other and to you is your gospel and your gospel alone. Father, maybe turn to it. It's the only thing we can turn to, your words alone, because it is the great equalizer. You came in your son Jesus Christ, and you took on this flesh in your image, and you lived that perfect life, and you, Jesus, died brutally to take on all the sins including this one that we confess today. You took it into the grave and you rose to seal it. This is the only thing that is going to reconcile us.

Father, as we look into your kingdom in the future in Revelation and we see that throne room and we see every race, every tribe, every ethnicity, every language bowing and praising you in unison, this is glorious. This is your glory. This is what you're doing right now on the Earth. You are reconciling all of us for that day. May we be the faithful ones to do this in obedience.

Father, take your gospel. Continue to transform me. Continue to transform all of us. Correct my eyes. May I see things and people the way you do. Renew my mind to be like Jesus's mind, to think about people the way you do, all people. But most importantly, Father, may your gospel soften my heart to love people as you have loved people, and you gave your life for people, so may we give our lives for others.

Father, may we share your gospel not just ... May we share it, and may be live it that others would see your glory. Father, we pray this. We look in that throne room. We want your kingdom to come here in me, in us, as it is in heaven. We want to see your glory like that here. Do this, Father. Do this, Father. In Jesus' name.

Speaker 3: Heavenly Father, we again ask that you would forgive us. Lord, as Pastor Dave has already talked about on the sanctity of life and the issue of abortion and how many lives have been tragically lost, Lord, you know each and every one. Father, but I, I do not believe that sanctity of life is only about the issue of abortion. I don't believe that we could separate your holiness from other areas, Lord, of the orphans that exist in our nation and our countries, Lord, that need to be adopted and loved. Lord, the elderly that we, in all honestly, sometimes cavalierly throw away. Lord, the homeless situation, all of which have been created in your image.

Father, when we ignore suffering and injustice, it is a slight against you because again you created all people in your image. Father, forgive us when we turn a hard heart to these situations. Forgive us when we go to politicians and to political ideas of thinking that that will solve a spiritual issue. This is a spiritual issue, because it is sin. Sin is a spiritual issue.

Lord, we come before you and ask that you would please change our hearts, Lord, to give us your eyes, your heart, of knowing that when we were yet sinners that you died for us. Lord, it is not something that overwhelms us or, Lord, that we don't have faith that you can turn around. Lord, if we did not believe that you could change these situations, we wouldn't pray to you. Lord, if there are any that don't believe you can, then they need to find the true and living God. Lord, you are powerful, you are holy, and we ask that we would be on our knees before you because you said that, "If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray." Lord, this is when we hear from heaven.

Lord, as your ambassadors into a lost and blind world, I pray that each one of us, Lord, would hold in high esteem the image of God that is implanted into every man, woman, and child. Lord, that we would honor your great name. Father, we ask all of these things in the name of our Savior Christ."

Dave Owen: Father, as we commit these things to you, we give you thanks. We are so grateful. We are a people that desire to be marked by humility, and gratitude, and generosity, and also prayer. Lord, your Word says may your house be called a house of prayer. Lord, we know you live and dwell in us and among us. We are grateful for that.

Would you continue to stir our hearts, God, with the truths over these past four weeks that we've learned, that we would continue to lean in and lean on you in full dependence, God, in prayer, hallowing your name, praying your kingdom come, giving thanks for our daily bread, and asking that you would lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For we love you and we are a grateful people. We pray all of this in Jesus' name, amen.



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