

## 21 DOP – Tabernacle Prayer

Welcome to CHC. Everyone happy to be a church this morning??

We are grateful for you...your presence matters!

Today we are starting a brand-new series. I have been looking forward to this one for a very long time. This is a series we do every August as school gets back into session and we all start finding that fall groove.

I like to think of this as more of a season that we are entering.

We are going to get back to the basics of what it means to be a follower of Christ.

For 21 days...together we are going to fast and pray. I am challenging you to take 21 days and pray like never before. We are going to pray and fast to seek Gods power for our homes and for our community and for His Church and for our world.

I know what some of you are thinking...I'm good with the prayer thing, but what's this about fasting? If you have never done this...there is no better time to start than right now.

Fasting is essentially telling God that you are serious about Him. It's taking time away from something in order to focus on Him. (*Info online*)

You decide what that fast is...food, sugar, TV, Cell phone, social media, etc...  
(*Digital Fast Test/guide is online*)

I'm giving up something in place of spending more time with God. It's hitting the reset button on your soul.

Powerful prayer is something that is at the core of who we are and who we want to be.

This church was birthed out of prayer and fasting. My family and along with 5 families sought the face of God and He led us to this point.

Prayer and fasting will always be the cornerstone of CHC. This is all about His power not ours.

This is not about me. I'm not smart enough to make all of this happen in 32 months. I'm just an average guy from Kentucky. We are 49<sup>th</sup> on every list...thank God for West Virginia.

I'm truly convinced that the majority of people don't need to be inspired to pray. For the most part, we have that. What we need to learn is how to pray.

Most people feel confused or insufficient in their prayers. God doesn't want you to feel like your prayers are second class...like they aren't as good as someone else.

I want and God wants your prayer life to be a joy in your life. You can't wait to get to it and you don't want it to end. Wouldn't that be something!

Throughout this season and throughout these 21 days and beyond... Our motto or rally cry is very simple: **Pray First.**

Pray first is what we want to implement into every aspect of our lives. Practically we can put this into play with everything we do.

In the morning | before you eat | before your big meeting | kids leave for school | before you tweet or post on social | send that email/text | before that test you didn't study for |

Prayer isn't just my quiet time in the morning...it's an always thing. Pray First.

Pray First - Bring God into every situation.

This motto is really straight from God's Word...**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 | <sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray continually, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.**

We like to complicate things. God's Word really makes this simple. Pray continually.

My goal is to try and make praying so simple and practical and even fun for you. Even the disciples in Matthew 6...they heard and saw Jesus praying and they had a simple response....**"Teach us how to pray"**

Jesus gave them some models....and that's what we are going to look at today.

Today is a note taking kind of day!

We are going to look into O.T. today. The O.T. was full of patterns and laws and we don't live under those laws anymore.

Jesus came along in the N.T... He redeemed all of those laws.

In the OT there is this place called the Tabernacle. Tabernacle was the first portable church. The temple was the permanent location in Jerusalem.

The tabernacle was this tent that had to be continually moved to wherever God was at. God was a cloud by day and a fire by night. He would move without announcing his movement.

The cloud would shift and everyone would pack up and move the tabernacle,

**Exodus 25.8-9** | <sup>8</sup> “They are to make a sanctuary for me so that **I may dwell among them.** <sup>9</sup> You must make it according to all that I show you—the pattern of the tabernacle as well as the pattern of all its furnishings.

These OT patterns have meaning in the NT.

**Show Picture of Tabernacle** – Tent that had no top. Furniture in the outer court. Inside, there was a tent with a top called Holy Place. Even that one was divided by a veil. It separated where the ark of the covenant was.

Here is the goal....You start out on the outside. You go through these steps or protocols. You go from place to place to get to God.

**Exodus 33.11** | <sup>11</sup> **The LORD would speak with Moses face to face, just as a man speaks with his friend.**

That’s what I want for you.

So...we are going to look at this pattern today. 7 Steps and 6 pieces of furniture. No way to get through all of these today.

The first step.

### **1. The Outer Court: Give God thanks and praise**

Just walking into the court.

**Psalm 100. 4** | **Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and bless his name.**

You don’t approach God with, hey I’m in a hurry. (God doesn’t mind your 911 prayers.)

We don’t approach God with our list of wants...We spend time praising and thanking Him for the blessings of life. Gratefulness.

**Thanks – For what He’s done**

**Praise – For who He is.**

Think about the Lord’s prayer that Jesus used to teach His disciples. “Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be your name.

He’s spending a moment connecting with God in a grateful manner.

**Psalm 103.1-5** | **My soul, bless the LORD, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. <sup>2</sup> My soul, bless the LORD, and **do not forget all his benefits.****

<sup>3</sup> He **forgives** all your iniquity; he **heals** all your diseases. <sup>4</sup> He **redeems** your life from the Pit; he **crowns** you with faithful love and compassion. <sup>5</sup> He **satisfies** you with good things; your youth is renewed like the eagle.

If Jesus does nothing else for you but these 5 things you're in good shape. We remind ourselves of the shape we were in before God...and that should fill us with praise and thanksgiving.

**You are my Salvation.**

**You are my Healer.**

**You have Redeemed me.**

**You have Transformed me.**

**You have Blessed me.**

Can we take 10 seconds and praise God for this?

So step 1 is the outer courts. The first piece of furniture we come to.

## **2. The Brazen Alter (show picture) | Focus on the Cross**

This was a literal alter where animal sacrifice had to be there bc you can't approach God with sin and only blood takes care of sin.

That's the simplest way to say that...what pays for sin is blood. The shedding of blood for the remission of sins. That's why Jesus, the spotless lamb of God, shed his blood. So that you and I can approach and be in the presence of God.

They would pass by blood. They had to see something dead on their behalf. They walked by and probably imagined, that thing would be alive if I hadn't sinned.

This alter represents the cross. What Jesus did for you.

Stop and think about the cross. Thank God for the blood of Jesus.

**Isaiah 53.5 | But he was pierced because of our rebellion, crushed because of our iniquities; punishment for our peace was on him, and we are healed by his wounds.**

Thank God for the gift of Jesus. Thank Jesus for his sacrifice and love. Let the power of the cross and what it means to settle into your spirit. Claim the power of transformation and healing that the cross of Jesus has in your life.

Looking at the cross reminds us...

**Nails: Freedom from my past** (from the stuff I've done. You're changing me Oh God)

**Spear: Freedom in my heart** (my heart can be pure and clean)

**Crown: Freedom in my mind** (free from anxiety and worry and stress)  
**Whip: Freedom in my body** (no bad habits)

That's the blood. That's the cross.

Now, the next step.

### **3. Laver (show picture) I Offer every part of my life to God**

Right before you went into that second tent that has a top. There was a bowl of water called a Laver. Made of mirrors so when you washed you could see your reflection.

This was the place where you washed before you take the next steps. You had to cleanse yourself.

I'm offering my life to God. My day, my wife, my life, my appointments, my ball games...all of it. Give it to Him.

**Romans 12.1 I Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship.**

Present your body to the Lord.

**My Eyes – What I look at**  
**My Ears – What I listen to**  
**My Mind – What I think about**  
**My Tongue – What I speak about**  
**My Hands – What I do**

You see church because of Jesus' sacrifice. We can confess our sins to Him and receive complete forgiveness and a fresh start.

In our prayers, we can humbly and sincerely turn away from our sins and allow God to cleanse us and renew us. We surrender our heart, our mind and our attitude. To him.

That's the Laver. You look in and see your reflection and you say Lord, that's not what it should be. So let's get it all cleaned up in Jesus name.

You do this every day and guess what, Gods begins to change you!

Ya'll still with me...is this helping anybody?

Now, you step into the tent with the roof. You're in the front have before the vail. You can't see the Ark yet, but there are 3 pieces of furniture you can see.

You've probably seen this before it's that 7-pronged candle stick. It burned with perpetual fed oil. The fire represents the Holy Spirit and how we are called to be light in the world's darkness.

#### **4. The Candlestick (show picture) | Invite the work of the Holy Spirit in my life.**

Here is where and why this is important. You are trained and can probably do some pretty good stuff. You have some skills that are pretty great...but it's not enough.

You're good at what you do without God...But **You are better with Him.**

This is where I declare my dependance on the Holy Spirit.

**Zechariah 4.6 | 'Not by strength or by might, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD of Armies.**

Three things to pray that activate the Holy Spirit inside of you.

##### **A. The Spirit of the Lord**

**Isaiah 11.2 | The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him— a Spirit of wisdom and understanding, a Spirit of counsel and strength, a Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.**

##### **B. The Fruit of the Spirit**

**Galatians 5.22-23 | But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The law is not against such things.**

##### **C. The Gifts of the Spirit**

**1 Corinthians 12.4-11 | <sup>4</sup> Now there are different gifts, but the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup> There are different ministries, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> And there are different activities, but the same God works all of them in each person. <sup>7</sup> A manifestation of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good: <sup>8</sup> to one is given a message of wisdom through the Spirit, to another, a message of knowledge by the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another, faith by the same Spirit, to another, gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another, the performing of miracles, to another, prophecy, to another, distinguishing between spirits, to another, different kinds of tongues, to another, interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup> One and the same Spirit is active in all these, distributing to each person as he wills.**

Gods got all these gifts. All of these tools in His toolbox. Im telling God, Ill take that.

What I'm doing here is praying that I will operate full of the Holy Spirit and not full of Bobby.

It is through His Holy Spirit that God comforts us, guides us, and empowers us.

We are going to stop here...we'll pick up the last 3 next week.

Conclusion:

These patterns or steps are something that you and I can use every day. And remember, this is about us getting closer to God.

Put these into practice in your own life and watch God start changing you. Watch God start changing things and people around you.

None of this makes much sense if you don't have a personal relationship with God. If you're here this morning and you don't have that, that's step 1.

For many of us, we have that relationship, but our prayer life, our communion with God needs to grow. Let's commit today...for the next 21 days, I'm going to seek God like never before.

I'm going to pray over you. (Brad start into final song)