

21 DOP – Tabernacle Prayer – Part 2

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

We are grateful for you...your presence matters! Please stop by and lets us meet you after the service.

We have some. Incredible things coming up...The Loop, FPU, Men's Class, Small Groups.

Get involved!

We are in week 2 of our 21 days of prayer... 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 fasting and praying. I challenged our church to be all-in last week. Let me encourage you to jump in with us. You can do a 14-day prayer and fasting challenge.

We are praying and fasting to seek Gods power for our homes and for our community and for His Church and for our world.

If we ever needed the Lord in our nation, it's now!

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

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 cant wait to get to it and you don't want it to end. Wouldn't that be something!

Our motto or rally cry is very simple: **Pray First.**

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

Pray First - Bring God into every situation.

Jesus gave His disciples some models or patterns to pray. Last we started looking at the model called **The Tabernacle Prayer.**

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 | ⁸ “They are to make a sanctuary for me so that I may dwell among them.

That’s the goal....dwelling with God.

(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 vail. It separated where the ark of the covenant was.

Here is the process....You start out on the outside. You go through these steps or protocols. You go from place to place to get to God. I want to give a quick review and then we’ll unpack the last 3.

Last week we looked at the first 4...

1. **The Outer Court** (Show picture of whole tabernacle) | **Give God thanks and praise**

We start with our gratitude.

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

³ He forgives all your iniquity; he heals all your diseases. ⁴ He redeems your life from the Pit; he crowns you with faithful love and compassion. ⁵ 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.

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.

We honor God for sending Jesus to the cross on our behalf

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

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

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.

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

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.

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.

5. Table of Shewbread (Show Picture) I Focus on God's Word

12 loaves of bread that would smell so good...Like Texas Roadhouse rolls with that cinnamon butter. Come on somebody!!

The scent of the fresh bread would make you want more. That's the idea with Gods Word.

That we would want to consume it and open it and bring it into our soul.

Matthew 4.4 | “It is written: Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”

That’s why during our quiet time we spend time in Gods Word and read it and think about it.

We claim Gods promises for our lives and for those we love.

This is mission critical right now...let me tell you why.

You’ve heard of fake news----The enemy has been selling fake news for years. You’re not enough. You’re not worthy. You are too far gone. Those are lies straight from the pit of hell and you and I have to use the word of God to fight back.

Not just for ourselves but for those we love.

Ephesians 6.10-11 | ¹⁰ Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and by his vast strength. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil.

Ephesians 6.17 | ...Take the sword of the Spirit— which is the word of God.

I spend time in God’s Word to get a fresh revelation from Him. A fresh word.

So then the next step...this is the last one before we move the veil and get to the ark of the covenant. (btw that’s where the cloud by day and fire by night was hovering.)

That’s where they wanted to get. They wanted to move toward God.

I’m not just saying God move toward me, I’m moving toward Him. I’m searching for Him.

One more piece of furniture.

6. The Altar of Incense (show picture) | Worship His name.

A small altar of burning incense stood at the entrance to the Holy of Holies. Where God’s presence dwelled. As the people of God entered His presence, they worshipped His name. This altar represents worship and adoration of God

Proverbs 18.10 | The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are protected.

Psalms 29.2 | Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness.

This is where we praise God and His names specifically for who He is and how He has moved in your life.

8 Covenant names of God:

Jehovah-Tsidkenu | My Righteousness | Jeremiah 23.6

Jehovah-M'Kaddesh | My Sanctifier | Leviticus 20.7-8

Jehovah-Rapha | My Healer | Exodus 15.26

Jehovah-Jireh | My Provider | Genesis 22.14

Jehovah-Nissi | My Banner of Victory | Exodus 17.15

Jehovah-Shalom | My Peace | Judges 6.24

Jehovah-Raah | My Shepherd | Psalm 23.1

Jehovah-Shammah | My Present Help | Ezekiel 48.35

Pray the names of God.

So now...you part the veil and you walk into the holy of holies.

Scholars say there was a rope tied to the priest who walked into the ark...if he had sin he would drop dead.

Jesus went to the cross....He tore the veil. He removed all of our barriers to God.

He wanted you to be able to approach God...and not stop approaching Him.

Sometimes we treat God like we treat marriage....We work really hard to get them. Once we get them, we don't try so hard anymore.

God likes to be pursued.

7. The Ark of the Covenant (show picture) | Intercession

What do you do when you're actually with God? You go there to intercede for others.

1 Timothy 2.1 | First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ²for kings and all those who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

³This is good, and it pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

When we reach Him...we don't just sit and get loved on. We pray for others.

The Lost – Those far from God

Those in Authority – Leaders in church, government, family, workplace, school

Those in hardships – suffering, poor, widowed, weak

My Family – immediate and extended family.

My Church – pastors, elders, deacons, sg leaders, kids' workers.

My Community – city, nation, world

My Relationships – friends, co-workers

My Adversaries – those I disagree with.

I'm interceding on behalf of others.

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.

(Show picture of all pieces together within the tabernacle)

We are going to do this together today...

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 14 days, I'm going to seek God like never before.