

## **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Prayer Service**

Let's give God some praise

Thank you for being here...today is an extra special day. Every month that we have a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday we are going to be dedicating that Sunday as a Prayer Service.

We believe in the power of prayer and we believe that life is better when Jesus is leading the way.

So today we are going to take time to connect with God.

This is how today is going to work...We started by giving God praise and gratitude.

**Psalm 100.4 | Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and bless his name.**

It's not just singing some words it's giving Him praise and honor for who he is. Its putting Him in His rightful place.

Its thanking him for what he's already done before we ask him to do more.

I'm going to share a little challenge to you here in just a second.

The Bible says, faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. Faith is what makes prayer work.

So, we are building your faith through the Word of God.

We are going to move into some individual prayer time. (Communion, prayer cards to leave at prayer benches, pray out loud, pray over someone)

Then we will have some corporate prayer time to pray together. Then we will end with some more worship of God.

That sound, ok?

I think a part of my job as a Pastor is to help you in your prayer life. I say that because one of the reason people struggle is because they just aren't sure or don't know how.

**Prayer is not about who we are. It's about who He is.**

Prayer is a response to life's happenings. We all have some initial habits when life comes. The goal is to get to the place where prayer is my first response.

I want to give you a guide, that you can literally put into practice here in just a few minutes.

A few weeks ago, we walked through The Tabernacle prayer.

Some of you may be familiar...this is called, **The Prayer of Jabez.**

**1 Chronicles 4.9-10 | Jabez was more honored than his brothers. His mother named him Jabez and said, “I gave birth to him in pain.” <sup>10</sup> Jabez called out to the God of Israel, “If only you would bless me, extend my border, let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm, so that I will not experience pain.” And God granted his request.**

Jabez was not using prayer as a formula to get something from God, rather He was calling upon God to help him accomplish the promises of God.

### **1. Pray for God to bless you.**

**Vs. 10 | Jabez called out to the God of Israel, “If only you would bless me...**

God is a blesser. He loves to bless His people.

There are many examples in God’s Word to show us how he wants to and does bless his people.

This isn’t about God giving us more stuff, its about Him taking us to our next step.

We have our part, and God moves us further.

We seek blessing, so that we can be a blessing to those around us.

### **2. Pray for God to give you influence.**

**Vs. 10 | ... Extend my border.** (Enlarge my territory)

You are a minister...you are not just an attender. We are all supposed to have an influence.

Pray for a sphere of influence. **You have something to offer the world that makes an eternal difference.**

Live out your faith for the betterment of others.

The next thing Jabez prays for... **“let your hand be with me,”**

### **3. Pray for the presence of God.**

We need the hand of God on our lives. Why? We live in a world that is so much bigger than we are.

We need God's anointing. We need to live our life with God's power and not my own.

Our life can be led by the enemy, people, influences, and ourselves.

We can't do it on our own... Maybe you're feeling inadequate...husband, mom, dad, job.

Cry out to God and pray for his Hand....Lord, Let your hand be on me because this is too big for me...I can only do it if your hand is on me.

Finally, after he prayed for blessing, influence, and God's hand, he said... **and keep me from harm.**

Look at the progression here...if you have God's blessing and he gives you influence and his presence, the enemy is going to come after you.

#### **4. Pray for protection from the enemy.**

Jabez asked God to keep him from harm.

For some of you the enemy is fighting you hard today. Take that as a compliment.

He's scared of what you may do for the Kingdom of God. He's scared of the difference you can make.

We need to pray the name of Jesus over our battles. Confront the enemy with the authority of God's name. Fight!

As we close...look at the final portion of Jabez's story.

#### **Vs. 10 ... And God granted his request.**

When we pray these bold prayers. When we pray asking for the things of God.

God will grant your request.

Pray with expectation for God to show up!