

Leader Conversation Guide – Best Year Yet: Simple Prayers

Main Idea

This week, Pastor Curt delivered an inspiring message on the power of simple prayers as we continue in our 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting. He reminded us that prayer doesn't have to be lengthy or complicated but should flow from a heart fully dependent on God. Through key Scriptures, including the prayers of Blind Bartimaeus, the Thief on the Cross, and the Tax Collector, Pastor Curt emphasized that the posture of answered prayer is marked by humility, honesty, and desperation. He challenged us to let go of pride, approach God with sincerity, and trust Him with our deepest needs. As we engage in this discussion, let's reflect on how simple, heartfelt prayers can draw us closer to God and open the door for His work in our lives.

And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him."

MATTHEW 6:7-8

Make It Practical:

Examples of Simple Prayers in Scripture:

- Peter Walking on Water (Matthew 14:30-31): When Peter began to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" and Jesus immediately responded, demonstrating the power of a simple, desperate prayer.
- Blind Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-52): Bartimaeus called out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" despite opposition, and his faith led to healing.
- Thief on the Cross (Luke 23:42-43): His simple request, "Jesus, remember me," received the promise of paradise.

The Posture of Answered Prayer:

- Humility – Acknowledging our need for God.
- Desperation – A genuine, heartfelt cry for help.
- Honesty – Being real about our struggles and sins before God.

Warnings Against Unanswered Prayers:

- Arrogance – James 4:6 warns that God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.
- Entitlement – Luke 18:9-14 shows how the Pharisee's self-righteous prayer lacked humility.

Talk About It

How do the examples of Peter sinking, Blind Bartimaeus, and the Thief on the Cross illustrate the power of simple prayers? How can we apply this simplicity in our own prayer life?

Pastor Curt emphasized that the posture of answered prayer includes humility, desperation, and honesty. Which of these qualities do you find most challenging to embody in your prayers, and why?

The Pharisee's prayer in Luke 18 was marked by arrogance and entitlement, while the tax collector demonstrated humility. How can we guard our hearts against pride in our relationship with God and approach Him with true dependence?

**Prayer doesn't have to be complicated and lengthy.
It just needs to display our dependency on God.**

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for reminding us that our prayers don't have to be complicated but should come from a heart fully dependent on You. Teach us to pray with humility, honesty, and desperation, trusting that You hear us and respond in love. Help us to let go of pride and self-reliance, and draw us closer to You in every moment. May our hearts be aligned with Yours as we seek to live out our faith this week. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Next Steps

Baptisms are happening this Sunday! Are you or someone you know ready to take your Next Step in Baptism? Sign up today and let us know!