

God's Call to God's People During a Time of Crisis

Be A Prayer Warrior

Matthew 6:5-15

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Aug. 2, 2020

[Read Matthew 6:5-15]

What can you expect to happen in your life if you start praying like Jesus taught us to pray?

I. You'll Be Reminded Continually that You Belong to a Family and Have a Good Father

Jesus teaches us to drop the "I" and start with "Our Father" because we're in this together.

Matthew 6:9 "In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name."

Every time you pray the "Lord's Prayer" you're reminded that you belong to a family and you have a Father.

When Jesus approached God and called Him "Father" everybody was shocked—and many are still shocked.

Jesus died and rose again that we might be adopted sons and daughters who call God our Father.

II. You'll Be Surrendered to Something Bigger and Focused on Something Eternal

Matthew 6:10 "Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

The kingdom of God has to be understood as something that's already here on earth, but not yet fully present. In other words, the kingdom of God was inaugurated when Jesus took on flesh and stepped into this world...but it won't be consummated until He returns as King of kings and Lord of lords!

The people of God are at war with spiritual darkness as we carry out His commission to make disciples, until the promise of Revelation 11:15 is fully realized:

Revelation 11:15 "...the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

Until that day, we have to guard against trying to bring in His kingdom with human effort and resources. The kingdom of God is not of this world and we cannot manufacture it by our own efforts.

God's people—filled with God's Spirit—share the Good News of the Gospel, as the only way that anyone comes into God's kingdom.

“Your kingdom come, Your will be done” is a radical prayer that carries incredible hope because it's fixed on someone outside of this world who's already broken into this world and promised to finish what He started.

III. You'll Be Living Out the Gospel as You Choose to Forgive

Matthew 6:12 “And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.”

Our biggest problem is the sin problem that separates us from a holy God and keeps us at war with other people around us.

The citizens of God's kingdom stand out when they practice mercy and forgiveness because the kingdoms of this world are filled with malice and bitterness.

Of everything He taught us to pray, this is the only part that He adds some additional commentary on:

Matthew 6:14-15 “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

He's not saying you can lose your salvation. He's saying the person who will not forgive is not born again...because it's impossible to experience the richness of God's mercy, grace, kindness, and forgiveness and remain a stubborn, hateful, coldhearted, bitter, and unforgiving person.

I'm asking you to make a commitment to:

- Read your Bible
- Pray, using the Lord's Prayer as your model
- Fast for the next 30 days, starting tomorrow, Aug. 3

See Fasting Commitment Sheet on next page

Prayer and Fasting for Our Church and Our Nation!

Place a checkmark ☑ where you are making a commitment

- During the next 30 days – I will practice an “Information Fast” – by reducing the amount of information I take in through email, internet, television, newspaper – and filling that time with prayer, Bible reading, and reflection.
- During the next 30-day period (Aug. 3 – Sept. 3) I will select one day to pray and fast alone. I will mark it on the calendar and guard it. If health issues are a concern, be sure to see your physician before beginning to fast. Also – contact me if you need help knowing how to spend a day in prayer. Resources are available.
- During the next 30 days – I will fast one day/week – Which day?
- During the next 30 days – I will fast one meal/week – Which meal?
- During the next 30 days – I will pray daily and specifically for our church family and for the glory of God to be revealed by Him doing “exceedingly, abundantly beyond all that we could ask or think” (Eph. 3:20).

Mark 9:29 “Some things only come about by prayer and fasting”

2 Chronicles 20:1-12 – Read it on your knees!

v. 3 “And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.”

By the grace of God, I am committing to follow through with this commitment.

Signed _____

Date _____, 2020

Suggestion for Bible Reading and Prayer During Our 30-Day Fast

- Choose to meet with the Lord each day for Bible reading and prayer (preferably early morning or evening).
- Choose to read either one chapter/day in the book of Psalms (see and worship God) or one chapter/day in the book of Luke (see how your Savior interacted with sinners in a broken world).
- After reading the Scripture, slow down and ask God two questions about the text:
 1. What are You telling or showing me about You, O God?
 2. What are You telling or showing me about me?

Skim back over the passage, asking those two questions, and then praying to Him in light of the answers – either a prayer of praise (for who He is) or a confession as to who you are and where you might need to grow/change spiritually.

- Do this every day for 30 days as you are either fasting social media or fasting a meal or some form of food.
- Let’s see what God can do IN and THROUGH us by His Spirit and His Word at work in us!