

**Summer Preaching Series on Prayer**  
**“May my prayer be set before you like incense;**  
**May the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.” Psalm 141:2**  
**Kenwood Baptist Church Sermon Series**  
Pastor David Palmer  
June 15-August 31, 2014

**OVERVIEW:** The summer sermon series at Kenwood Baptist church will focus on the spiritual discipline of prayer. Prayer is a life-giving habit of practical discipleship. Prayer is the sacred privilege of being encountered by God’s transforming, sustaining, and empowering presence. Prayer reorients our heart toward God and moves God’s heart toward us. In the Bible, prayer takes many forms and is prompted by many different occasions and concerns. Over the course of the summer, we will learn to pray through the prayers of God’s people drawn from both the Old and New Testament. Above all, we will seek to cultivate our life together in Christ at Kenwood by growing stronger in prayer as a church family.

**CHURCH INTEGRATION:** We will recommend savoring the devotional classic by A. W. Tozer *The Pursuit of God* as food for the soul over the summer. This can be read alone or as a family, within a discipleship relationship or small group.

**SCRIPTURE MEMORY:** We will memorize one key Scriptural prayer and recite this prayer together in worship on Sundays.

“Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth.” Psalm 57:5

**GRAPHIC DESIGN:** A central image of interlocked arms and bowed heads reminds us that we are strongest when we prayer. Psalm 141:2 asks our gracious heavenly Father to receive our prayer as sweet-smelling incense rising before His throne. May He regard the lifting up of our hands as a sacrifice that invites God’s presence to move powerfully in the world. We are God’s people. Around the border, we see the prayers of God’s people at Kenwood in the sanctuary, on the street, in our city, and in our global mission partners.

**WORSHIP EMPHASIS AND KEY HYMNS/PRAISE SONGS:**

**Be Thou Exalted**

**Praise to the Lord the Almighty**

WEEK 1:     June 15           Pastor David Palmer  
          Title:            “Prayer of Adoration”  
          Text:            Psalm 57  
          Theme:          David’s prayer of worship in the midst of difficulty.

Pastoral contact: Prayer reorders our life toward God. The prayer of adoration is the first and greatest prayer in Scripture. Our first priority is to keep our soul happy in God. We seek His glory and fame in the world above our own. This is the basis for lasting joy. The prayer of adoration delights our soul with God’s person and perfection before we move to petition.

**Scripture Memory:**

“Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth.” Psalm 57:5

WEEK 2:     June 22           Pastor Emeritus Alex Aronis  
          Title:            “Prayer for Christ-likeness”  
          Text:            Philippians 1:1-11  
          Theme:          Paul’s prayer that we might know and love Christ more.

Pastoral contact:     In Philippians 1, Paul thanks God for the Christians in Philippi and is persuaded that God is at work among them. He prays that their love for Christ and one another may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight. He prays for them to be pure and blameless, filled with the fruit of righteousness to the glory and praise of God. His prayer is marked by his genuine affection for them. Through this prayer, he teaches them and us about the things that matter most.

**Scripture Memory:**

“Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth.” Psalm 57:5

WEEK 3:     June 29           Pastor Mark Shaffer  
          Title:            “Prayer of Outcry Against Injustice”  
          Text:            Psalm 17  
          Theme:          David cries out for God to act against the injustice in the world.

Pastoral contact:     God’s people live in a world awaiting full redemption. Great suffering, evil, and injustice abound. God’s people do not become embittered in such a world, but are empowered to pray to the God who acts against injustice. He is the defender of the weak, widowed, orphaned, and powerless. His cause will triumph in the end. He will humble the exalted and exalt the humble. We hope to see you on Sunday morning as Pastor Mark Shaffer exalts God and brings us the Word of the Lord.

**Scripture Memory:**

“Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth.” Psalm 57:5

WEEK 4: July 6 Preston Watkins, Preaching  
Title: "Praying to Receive Christ"  
Text: Acts 8:26-40  
Theme: Praying for opportunities to share Christ with others

Pastoral contact: Are you convinced that God is at work in the lives around us? He is already preparing hearts to respond to the gospel of Christ. We are called to pray for opportunities to share Christ with others for salvation. In Acts 8, we recognize God's surprising work in the heart of an Ethiopian government official. This Sunday we will discover how to share Christ and the prayer to receive Christ. Preston Watkins will bring us the Word of Christ.

**Scripture Memory:**

"Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth." Psalm 57:5

WEEK 5: July 13 Pastor David Palmer  
Title: "Prayer for the feet of Gospel workers"  
Text: Isaiah 52:7-10 and Luke 10:1-12  
Theme: Prayer for God to send gospel workers into His harvest

Pastoral contact: This Sunday we commission our Costa Rica Children and Family mission team with the prayer for the feet of Gospel workers. We pray that they would bring good news to those they are serving. We pray for open hearts to receive. We pray for total reliance upon God and faithfulness in representing Christ. We pray that God would be exalted in all the earth.

**Scripture Memory:**

"Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth." Psalm 57:5

WEEK 6: July 20 Dr. Joel White, Preaching (Giessen School of Theology, Germany)  
Title: "Jesus' Prayer of Intercession"  
Text: John 17  
Theme: Jesus prays for God to be glorified and for all who believe in Him.

Pastoral contact: This Sunday we are granted access into the prayer life of our Lord Jesus. In John 17, Jesus prays to the Father that His glory might be revealed in the world. Jesus prays for His disciples that they may be made holy through His Word and protected in this world. Jesus prays for our unity and mission that all might come to know and believe in Him. We are privileged to hear the Word of God through Dr. Joel White who serves Christ in training the next generation of Christian leadership as Professor New Testament at the Giessen School of Theology in Germany.

**Scripture Memory:**

"Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth." Psalm 57:5

WEEK 7:     July 27         Pastor David Palmer  
          Title:         “Prayer of Daily Devotion and Fasting”  
          Text:         Daniel 6  
          Theme:        Daily prayer and fasting make us strong in the Lord.

Pastoral contact: This Sunday we focus our attention on the habit of daily prayer. Pray can and should be spontaneous, yet there is power in making prayer a regular habit of the heart. In Daniel 6, we see the prophet Daniel committed to praying three times per day. His enemies attempt to trap him and squeeze the life of prayer out of his life. However, Daniel remains faithful, growing strong in prayer. God exalts Daniel and humbles his enemies closing the mouth of lions. Daily prayer and fasting makes us strong in faith.

**Scripture Memory:**

“Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth.” Psalm 57:5

WEEK 8:     August 3         Pastor David Palmer  
          Title:         “Prayer for the City in which you live”  
          Text:         Jeremiah 29:1-13  
          Theme:        God calls us to pray for the place He has brought us and to seek the good of the city around us.

Pastoral contact: This Sunday we focus on the prayer for the city in which we live. God ordains the times, seasons, and places where we live. As God’s people in the world, we are called to seek blessing upon the city around us. We are to pray for our communities that they might prosper. We will hear the Word of God through Jeremiah 29:1-11. This is an especially important weekend for us to pray for the communities in which we live as we serve together in Chamberlin Park for Christ and for the good of our city.

**Scripture Memory:**

“Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth.” Psalm 57:5

WEEK 9:     August 10        Pastor Lou Cha  
          Title:         “Prayer of Blessing”  
          Text:         Genesis 48:1-22  
          Theme:        Jacob’s blessing upon his sons

Pastoral contact: Parents are to be instruments of spiritual blessing in the lives of their children and grandchildren. They have a sacred responsibility to share what they have learned of the Lord to the generations coming up behind them. Our spiritual inheritance is the most enduring gift that can be given across generations. This Sunday Pastor Lou will bring us the Word of the Lord from Jacob’s blessing to his sons in Genesis 48. We look forward to worshipping together.

**Scripture Memory:**

“Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth.” Psalm 57:5

WEEK 10: August 17 Pastor David Palmer  
Title: “Prayer of Healing and Forgiveness”  
Text: James 5:13-20  
Theme: Prayer of healing for sickness and forgiveness of sins

Pastoral contact: In James 5, we are invited to pray for one another in times of need. We are taught to turn toward God in prayer when we face illness or disease. We are invited to reach toward one another and to be surrounded by the prayers of God’s people. Prayer for healing takes place in community. James also wisely teaches that we should confess our sins to one another in a context of prayer and forgiveness. Forgiveness promotes healing of the soul. Just as prayer for physical healing, we pray for one another in community. We are promised that the prayers of the righteous are highly effective.

**Scripture Memory:**

“Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth.” Psalm 57:5

WEEK 11: August 24 Pastor David Palmer  
Title: “Prayer at Work”  
Text: Nehemiah 1-2:8  
Theme: Prayer in the workplace

Pastoral contact: Our working lives form a major context of our energy and time. God desires to be honored in our workplace. Our work itself matters to God in terms of quality. Our co-workers and our supervisors matter too. In Nehemiah, we are taught that our devotion to the Lord connects meaningfully with our work. Nehemiah teaches us to bathe our work in prayer. When the opportunity arises for him to stand before the King of Persia, Nehemiah prays. God’s answer is surprising in swiftness and scope. Will we be ready to do the same?

**Scripture Memory:**

“Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth.” Psalm 57:5

WEEK 12: August 31 Pastor David Palmer  
Title: “Prayer for Christ’s Return”  
Text: Revelation 22:12-20  
Theme: Prayer for Christ’s Return keeps everything in perspective and supplies motivation for dedicated service to our soon coming King.

Pastoral contact: The final prayer offered in Scripture is a single word: “Come!” in Revelation 22:17. With this single word, we pray for the glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ whom

every eye will see. Jesus promises us: “Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done” (Rev 22:12). Regular prayer for Christ’s return fills our lives with hope and courage. It also motivates us to be about His cause in this world and to make it our aim to please Him.

**Scripture Memory:**

“Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth.” Psalm 57:5

**Quotes on prayer and devotion to be shared throughout the summer:**

“According to my judgment the most important point to be attended to is this: above all things see to it that your souls are happy in the Lord. Other things may press upon you, the Lord's work may even have urgent claims upon your attention, but I deliberately repeat, it is of supreme and paramount importance that you should seek above all things to have your souls truly happy in God Himself!

“Day by day seek to make this the most important business of your life. This has been my firm and settled condition for the last five and thirty years. For the first four years after my conversion I knew not its vast importance, but now after much experience I specially commend this point to the notice of my younger brethren and sisters in Christ: the secret of all true effectual service is joy in God, having experimental acquaintance and fellowship with God Himself.”

George Müller

“You can do more than pray after you have prayed;  
but you can never do more than pray until you have prayed.  
A. J. Gordon (founder of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary)

God does nothing except in response to believing prayer.”  
John Wesley (Famous evangelist who spent 2 hours daily in prayer)

“Prayer strikes the winning blow; service is simply picking up the pieces.” S.D. Gordon

“One should never initiate anything that he cannot saturate with prayer.”

“The greatest thing anyone can do for God or man is pray.” S.D. Gordon

“If I fail to spend two hours in prayer each morning, the devil gets the victory through the day. I have so much business I cannot get on without spending three hours daily in prayer.”  
Martin Luther

“Men may spurn our appeals, reject our message, oppose our arguments, despise our persons, but they are helpless against our prayers.” Sidlow Baxter

“Prayer is where the action is.” John Wesley

“Satan does not care how many people read about prayer if only he can keep them from praying.” Paul E. Billheimer

“Oh brother, pray; in spite of Satan, pray; spend hours in prayer; rather neglect friends than not pray; rather fast, and lose breakfast, dinner, tea, and supper - and sleep too - than not pray. And we must not talk about prayer, we must pray in right earnest. The Lord is near. He comes softly while the virgins slumber.” Andrew A. Bonar

“Don’t pray when you feel like it. Have an appointment with the Lord and keep it. A man is powerful on his knees.” Corrie ten Boom

“Talking to men for God is a great thing, but talking to God for men is greater still.” E.M. Bounds

"The men who have done the most for God in this world have been early on their knees. He who fritters away the early morning, its opportunity and freshness, in other pursuits than seeking God will make poor headway seeking Him the rest of the day. If God is not first in our thoughts and efforts in the morning, He will be in the last place the remainder of the day." E.M. Bounds

"God's cause is committed to men; God commits Himself to men. Praying men are the vice-regents of God; they do His work and carry out His plans." E.M. Bounds

"The prayer power has never been tried to its full capacity. If we want to see mighty wonders of divine power and grace wrought in the place of weakness, failure and disappointment, let us answer God's standing challenge, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not!" (J. Hudson Taylor)

"No learning can make up for the failure to pray. No earnestness, no diligence, no study, no gifts will supply its lack." E.M. Bounds

"The little estimate we put on prayer is evidence from the little time we give to it." E.M. Bounds

"Satan trembles when he sees the weakest Christian on his knees." William Cowper

"Prayer will make a man cease from sin, or sin will entice a man to cease from prayer." John Bunyan

"He who has learned to pray has learned the greatest secret of a holy and happy life." William Law

"Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance, but laying hold of His willingness." Martin Luther.

"There is not in the world a kind of life more sweet and delightful than that of a continual conversation with God." Brother Lawrence

When asked how much time he spent in prayer, George Muller's reply was, "Hours every day. But I live in the spirit of prayer. I pray as I walk and when I lie down and when I arise. And the answers are always coming."

"The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayer less studies, prayerless work and prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but he trembles when we pray." Samuel Chadwick

"I would rather teach one man to pray than ten men to preach." Charles Spurgeon

"The man who mobilizes the Christian church to pray will make the greatest contribution to world evangelization in history." Andrew Murray

"If I could hear Christ praying for me in the next room, I would not fear a million enemies. Yet distance makes no difference. He is praying for me." (Robert Murray McCheyne)

"One day George Mueller began praying for five of his friends. After many months, one of them came to the Lord. Ten years later, two others were converted. It took 25 years before the fourth man was saved. Mueller persevered in prayer until his death for the fifth friend, and throughout those 52 years he never gave up hoping that he would accept Christ! His faith was rewarded, for soon after Mueller's funeral the last one was saved."

*On persevering prayer:* "I look at a stone cutter hammering away at a rock a hundred times without so much as a crack showing in it. Yet at the 101st blow it splits in two. I know it was not the one blow that did it, but all that had gone before."

"Eighteen-year-old Hudson Taylor wandered into his father's library and read a gospel tract. He couldn't shake off its message. Finally, falling to his knees, he accepted Christ as his Savior. Later, his mother, who had been away, returned home. When Hudson told her the good news, she said, "I already know. Ten days ago, the very date on which you tell me you read that tract, I spent the entire afternoon in prayer for you until the Lord assured me that my wayward son had been brought into the fold." [Hudson Taylor (1832-1905) was a famous missionary in China. He was founder of the China Inland Mission which, at his death, included 205 mission stations with over 800 missionaries, and 125,000 Chinese Christians. He spent 51 years in China].

Spurgeon's "boilerroom." Five young college students were spending a Sunday in London, so they went to hear the famed C.H. Spurgeon preach. While waiting for the doors to open, the students were greeted by a man who asked, "Gentlemen, let me show you around. Would you like to see the heating plant of this church?" They were not particularly interested, for it was a hot day in July. But they didn't want to offend the stranger, so they consented. The young men were taken down a stairway, a door was quietly opened, and their guide whispered, "This is our heating plant." Surprised, the students saw 700 people bowed in prayer, seeking a blessing on the service that was soon to begin in the auditorium above. Softly closing the door, the gentleman then introduced himself. It was none other than Charles Spurgeon.

"Prayer is the greatest of all forces, because it honors God and brings him into active aid." E.M. Bounds

Prayer should not be regarded "as a duty which must be performed, but rather as a privilege to be enjoyed, a rare delight that is always revealing some new beauty." E.M. Bounds

"I never prayed sincerely and earnestly for anything but it came at some time; no matter at how distant a day, somehow, in some shape, probably the least I would have devised, it came." Adoniram Judson

"Our prayer must not be self-centered. It must arise not only because we feel our own need as a burden we must lay upon God, but also because we are so bound up in love for our fellow men that we feel their need as acutely as our own. To make intercession for men is the most powerful and practical way in which we can express our love for them." John Calvin

"We have to pray with our eyes on God, not on the difficulties." Oswald Chambers

"Faith in a prayer-hearing God will make a prayer-loving Christian." Andrew Murray

"The battle of prayer is against two things in the earthlies: wandering thoughts, and lack of intimacy with God's character as revealed in His word. Neither can be cured at once, but they can be cured by discipline." Oswald Chambers

"Prayer breaks all bars, dissolves all chains, opens all prisons, and widens all straits by which God's saints have been held." E. M. Bounds

"A life growing in its purity and devotion will be a more prayerful life." E. M. Bounds

"As is the business of tailors to make clothes and cobblers to make shoes, so it is the business of Christians to pray." Martin Luther

"Prayer is my chief work, and it is by means of it that I carry on the rest." Thomas Hooker, Puritan

"Prayer wonderfully clears the vision; steadies the nerves; defines duty; stiffens the purpose; sweetens and strengthens the spirit." S.D. Gordon

"...True prayer is measured by weight, not by length. A single groan before God may have more fullness of prayer in it than a fine oration of great length." C. H. Spurgeon

"If you want that splendid power in prayer, you must remain in loving, living, lasting, conscious, practical, abiding union with the Lord Jesus Christ." C. H. Spurgeon

"The word of God is the food by which prayer is nourished and made strong." E. M. Bounds

"If the spiritual life be healthy, under the full power of the Holy Spirit, praying without ceasing will be natural." Andrew Murray

“The great people of the earth today are the people who pray! I do not mean those who talk about prayer; nor those who say they believe in prayer; nor those who explain prayer; but I mean those who actually take the time to pray. They have not time. It must be taken from something else. That something else is important, very important and pressing, but still, less important and pressing than prayer. There are people who put prayer first, and group the other items in life's schedule around and after prayer. These are the people today who are doing the most for God in winning souls, in solving problems, in awakening churches, in supplying both men and money for mission posts, in keeping fresh and strong their lives far off in sacrificial service on the foreign field, where the thickest fighting is going on, and in keeping the old earth sweet a little while longer.” S.D. Gordon

“Up in a little town in Maine, things were pretty dead some years ago. The churches were not accomplishing anything. There were a few Godly men in the churches, and they said: 'Here we are, only uneducated laymen; but something must be done in this town. Let us form a praying band. We will all center our prayers on one man. Who shall it be?' They picked out one of the hardest men in town, a hopeless drunkard, and centered all their prayers upon him. In a week, he was converted. They centered their prayers upon the next hardest man in town, and soon he was converted. Then they took up another and another, until within a year, two or three hundred were brought to God, and the fire spread out into all the surrounding country. Definite prayer for those in the prison house of sin is the need of the hour.” Dr. R.A. Torrey

“Therefore, whether the desire for prayer is on you or not, get to your closet at the set time; shut yourself in with God; wait upon Him; seek His face; realize Him; pray.” R. F. Horton

“Time spent alone with God is not wasted. It changes us; it changes our surroundings; and every Christian who would live the life that counts, and who would have power for service must take time to pray.” M.E. Andross

“Make time to pray. The great freight and passenger trains are never too busy to stop for fuel. No matter how congested the yards may be, no matter how crowded the schedules are, no matter how many things demand the attention of the trainmen, those trains always stop for fuel.” M.E. Andross

“There is no other activity in life so important as that of prayer. Every other activity depends upon prayer for its best efficiency.” M.E. Andross

“...the man on his knees has a leverage underneath the mountain which can cast it into the sea, if necessary, and can force all earth and heaven to recognize the power there is in 'His name.'” M.E. Andross

When prayer has become secondary, or incidental, it has lost its power. Those who are conspicuously men of prayer are those who use prayer as they use food, or air, or light, or money." M.E. Andross

"We must begin to believe that God, in the mystery of prayer, has entrusted us with a force that

can move the Heavenly world, and can bring its power down to earth." Andrew Murray

"What the church needs today is not more machinery or better, not new organizations or more novel methods, but people whom the Holy Spirit can use— people of prayer, people mighty in prayer" E.M. Bounds

"Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work." Oswald Chambers.

"Those persons who know the deep peace of God, the unfathomable peace that passeth all understanding, are always men and women of much prayer." R. A. Torrey

"The trouble with nearly everybody who prays is that he says 'Amen' and runs away before God has a chance to reply. Listening to God is far more important than giving Him our ideas." Frank Laubach

"Time spent in prayer will yield more than that given to work. Prayer alone gives work its worth and its success. Prayer opens the way for God Himself to do His work in us and through us. Let our chief work as God's messengers be intercession; in it we secure the presence and power of God to go with us." Andrew Murray

"Yes, worship of the loving God is man's whole reason for existence." A.W. Tozer

"The Bible is not an end in itself, but a means to bring men to an intimate and satisfying knowledge of God, that they may enter into Him, that they may delight in His Presence, may taste and know the inner sweetness of the very God Himself in the core and center of their hearts." A.W. Tozer

"Prayer is not monologue, but dialogue. God's voice in response to mine is its most essential part." Andrew Murray

"Prayer is weakness leaning on omnipotence." W. S. Bowd

"Our prayers lay the track down which God's power can come. Like a mighty locomotive, his power is irresistible, but it cannot reach us without rails." Watchman Nee

"Whole days and weeks have I spent prostrate on the ground in silent or vocal prayer." George Whitefield (Great Evangelist during American Revolution era, during the First Great Awakening in America)

"I ought to pray before seeing any one...Christ arose before day and went into a solitary place. David says: 'Early will I seek thee'...I feel it is far better to begin with God-to see His face first, to get my soul near Him before it is near another." - Robert Murray M'Cheyne

"There is no power like that of prevailing prayer, of Abraham pleading for Sodom, Jacob wrestling in the stillness of the night, Moses standing in the breach, Hannah intoxicated with sorrow, David heartbroken with remorse and grief, Jesus in sweat of blood. Add to this list from the records of the church your personal observation and experience, and always there is the cost of passion unto blood. Such prayer prevails. It turns ordinary mortals into men of power. It brings power. It brings fire. It brings rain. It brings life. It brings God." Samuel Chadwick

"A man who is intimate with God will never be intimidated by men." Leonard Ravenhill

"Since the days of Pentecost, has the whole church ever put aside every other work and waited upon Him for ten days, that the Spirit's power might be manifested? We give too much attention to method and machinery and resources, and too little to the source of power." Hudson Taylor

"Where there is no vision of eternity, there is no prayer for the perishing." David Smithers

"Ministers who do not spend two hours a day in prayer are not worth a dime a dozen - degrees or no degrees." Leonard Ravenhill

"Prayer is reaching out after the unseen; fasting is letting go of all that is seen and temporal. Fasting helps express, deepen, confirm the resolution that we are ready to sacrifice anything, even ourselves to attain what we seek for the kingdom of God." Andrew Murray

"All great soul-winners have been men of much and mighty prayer, and all great revivals have been preceded and carried out by persevering, prevailing knee-work in the closet." Samuel Logan Brengle

"Out of a very intimate acquaintance with D. L. Moody, I wish to testify that he was a far greater prayer than he was preacher. Time and time again, he was confronted by obstacles that seemed insurmountable, but he always knew the way to overcome all difficulties. He knew the way to bring to pass anything that needed to be brought to pass. He knew and believed in the deepest depths of his soul that nothing was too hard for the Lord, and that prayer could do anything that God could do." R. A. Torrey (Emphasis added)

"Prayer - secret, fervent, believing prayer - lies at the root of all personal godliness." William Carey

"The essence of prayer does not consist in asking God for something but in opening our hearts to God, in speaking with Him, and living with Him in perpetual communion. Prayer is continual abandonment to God. Prayer does not mean asking God for all kinds of things we want; it is rather the desire for God Himself, the only Giver of Life, Prayer is not asking, but union with God. Prayer is not a painful effort to gain from God help in the varying needs of our lives. Prayer is the desire to possess God Himself, the Source of all life. The true spirit of prayer does not

consist in asking for blessings, but in receiving Him who is the giver of all blessings, and in living a life of fellowship with Him." Sadhu Sundar Singh

"Depend upon it, if you are bent on prayer, the devil will not leave you alone. He will molest you, tantalize you, block you, and will surely find some hindrances, big or little or both. And we sometimes fail because we are ignorant of his devices...I do not think he minds our praying about things if we leave it at that. What he minds, and opposes steadily, is the prayer that prays on until it is prayed through, assured of the answer." Mary Warburton Booth

"I have seen many men work without praying, though I have never seen any good come out of it; but I have never seen a man pray without working." James Hudson Taylor

"It is in the field of prayer that life's critical battles are lost or won. We must conquer all our circumstances there. We must first of all bring them there. We must survey them there. We must master them there. In prayer we bring our spiritual enemies into the Presence of God and we fight them there. Have you tried that? Or have you been satisfied to meet and fight your foes in the open spaces of the world?" J. H. Jowett

He who runs from God in the morning will scarcely find Him the rest of the day. John Bunyan

"Prayer is the first thing, the second thing, the third thing necessary to a minister. Pray, then my dear brother; pray, pray, pray." Edward Payson

"Each time, before you intercede, be quiet first, and worship God in His glory. Think of what He can do, and how He delights to hear the prayers of His redeemed people. Think of your place and privilege in Christ, and expect great things!" Andrew Murray

"If we would pray aright, the first thing we should do is to see to it that we really get an audience with God, that we really get into His very presence. Before a word of petition is offered, we should have the definite consciousness that we are talking to God, and should believe that He is listening and is going to grant the thing that we ask of Him." R.A. Torrey

"Ten minutes spent in the presence of Christ every day, aye, two minutes, will make the whole day different." Henry Drummond

"Many Christians backslide...They are unable to stand against the temptations of the world, or of their old nature. They strive to do their best to fight against sin, and to serve God, but they have no strength. They have never really grasped the secret: The Lord Jesus will every day from heaven continue His work in me. But on one condition—the soul must give Him time each day to impart His love and his grace. Time alone with the Lord Jesus each day is the indispensable condition of growth and power." Andrew Murray (Emphasis added).

"Shut the world out, withdraw from all worldly thoughts and occupations, and shut yourself in alone with God, to pray to Him in secret. Let this be your chief object in prayer, to realize the

presence of your heavenly Father." Andrew Murray

"There has never been a spiritual awakening in any country or locality that did not begin in united prayer." A.T. Pierson

"Intercession is truly universal work for the Christian. No place is closed to intercessory prayer. No continent - no nation - no organization - no city - no office. There is no power on earth that can keep intercession out." Richard Halverson

The man of prayer: "...his heart is ever lifted up to God, at all times and in all places. In this he is never hindered, much less interrupted, by any person or thing. In retirement or company, in leisure, business, or conversation, his heart is ever with the Lord. Whether he lie down or rise up, God is in all his thoughts; he walks with God continually, having the loving eye of his mind still fixed upon him, and everywhere 'seeing Him that is invisible.' " John Wesley (Evangelist)

"I can just imagine Satan gathering all the demons in hell and discussing what they can do to destroy Christians. And Satan says, 'Keep them from praying. Because no matter what else they do, if they don't pray, we can beat them every time. But if they learn how to pray, they'll beat us every time. Keep them from praying.'" Dr. Sidlow Baxter

"A prayerless family cannot be otherwise than irreligious. They who daily pray in their homes, do well; they that not only pray, but read the Bible, do better; but they do best of all, who not only pray and read the Bible, but sing the praises of God."

"A visitor in the [A.B.] Simpson home once discovered the secret to Simpson's great ministry. He happened to get up early in the morning and heard a noise in Simpson's study. The door was ajar so peeking in he discovered Simpson draped over a globe of the world sobbing as though his heart would break for the lost world." From essay, *A.B. Simpson and the "Business" of Healing*

**NEXT SERMON SERIES: FALL 2014 EXODUS: "GOD RESCUES HIS PEOPLE"**

**SEPTEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup> –NOVEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>**