

ALL ACCESS: WEEK 5

The Lord's Prayer pt 2

- If you're just joining us, we have been going through a series together entitled All-Access
- Because Paul tells us in Ephesians 5 that through Jesus, we have been given Access to God the Father
 - That means because of the death and resurrection of Jesus, all of the penalty that caused the separation between God and man has been paid for and now anyone who comes into a relationship with Jesus can come before the Father as His child
- As we pointed out the week before last, every time you pray, you are granted an audience with the King of the Universe
- And if you were here last week, Pastor Jeremy broke down the first part of the Lord's prayer
 - And in doing so, he gave us so many great truths like how prayer is the most important

thing we can do in our spiritual lives, we have to be taught how to pray just like the disciples asked of Jesus, and we should take prayer very seriously as we acknowledge God as our Holy Father Who's divine will comes above all else.

- I love how Jeremy pointed out that if even Jesus submitted Himself to the will of the Father, how much more so should we?
- And prayer is the means by which we access God's ultimate will and presence in our lives
- So in those first 3 petitions of the Lords prayer, we praise, glorify, and humble ourselves before God
- This helps us pray with perspective so we know exactly Who we are praying to
 - We're not just talking to one of our friends, we're talking to the Almighty Creator of the Universe Who knows what we don't know and can see what we don't see

- And when we pray with that kind of perspective, acknowledging His Greatness, Majesty, and Holiness it helps us pray with more faith.
- And then in the next section of the Lord's prayer, Jesus teaches us how we should also ask of God what we need to ask of God in our every day lives.
 - So our prayers should start with God, then make it's way to us, and then as we'll see our prayers make their way back to God again
- And I believe that Jesus teaches us to specifically ask for two general things:
 - DEPENDANCE & DELIVERANCE
- But let's read the entirety of the Lord's prayer together
- ***"Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."***
-Matthew 6: 9-13 (NKJV)
- Back on Mother's Day I said this, and I truly believe that there are few things in this world that are more powerful, and more threatening to the enemies of hell, than the prayers of a Godly Mother
- And I have been so blessed to be able to confidently say that I have a Godly mother. She's not perfect, she has her flaws and short comings, but one thing that I will never question is that God listens to her prayers
- And mom would pray about absolutely everything, not just the big stuff
- We could be driving around the mall looking for a parking space, and she would say, "Ah, Lord, help us find a spot!"
- I remember one time specifically when we were trying to leave the house, and we couldn't

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find the car keys, and we're all tearing the couch apart looking for the keys in a panic, but then mom just stopped, and started praying for God to help us find the keys

- And in my young faithless mind, I'm thinking, "Ok mom, yea that's nice you're praying and everything, but can you help us find the keys!"
- Then eventually we found the keys, and her first response wasn't to say "good job" to whoever found the keys, her first response was, "Thank You Lord!"
- But that is something I will forever appreciate about my momma because she has always understood the power and importance of Daily Bread Prayers.
 - Because whenever Paul says to pray without ceasing, or In EVERYTHING by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God
 - Whenever I think about what that is like to pray without ceasing or to pray in Everything, I think about my mom

- And she would pray with such certainty and expectation that God was going to help and answer
 - And it's like she would get so flustered and annoyed whenever God wouldn't answer her prayers the way she wanted
- Just a couple of weeks ago, mom was up here for Fletcher's birthday and she stayed for our Sunday service
 - And that morning was a train wreck. Not the service, but everything leading up to the service
 - I got up that morning to an ant infestation in my kitchen, so I was little late getting here
 - When I got here, me and Jordan walked in to see every table and chair this facility owns still set up, so we decided to just go unload the trailer and wait for reinforcements to help with the mess that was in this room
 - But then we went out to the trailer and two of the tires were slashed and the whole thing

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was leaning, so we had to let the air out of the other side just to get the trailer level enough to unload it

- So everything was behind schedule and so chaotic, but I remember at one point being surprised that I was still in such a good mood
- Because first off, it's the morning and I'm never in a good mood in the morning and our set up team can testify that I have let a lot less fluster me before in the past
- But I was telling my mom later that day just how chaotic that morning had been
- And she said, "AH! That's exactly what I prayed wouldn't happen! What's up with that Lord!"
- But then I told her, "Well mom, you praying is probably why I didn't get to flustered like I normally would have."
- Then said said, "Ahhh, well yea, Thank you Lord!"

- You know, I aspire to have a prayer life more like my moms
 - Because if I'm honest I struggle with praying for the little stuff
 - I've always been a big picture guy, and I kind of have to be in my line of work
 - But too many times whenever I pray to God, I'm requesting the big picture down the road type of stuff. If I'm honest I feel like I don't need to bother God with any request that aren't what I would deem to be important
- But that's not really how Jesus taught us to pray
- He taught us to pray, give us TODAY our DAILY BREAD
- Jesus also said at the end of the Chapter, ***"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."*** -Matthew 6:34 (NKJV)

- So Jesus is letting us know that what's more fruitful than always just looking down the road and only praying big important prayers is instead ask for
- **DAILY DEPENDANCE**
 - Whenever we pray for our daily bread, we are acknowledging that there isn't a single thing in our lives that we are not dependent on God for
 - And the problem with the tendency that I have to pray is that I feel like God can handle all the big stuff but ill handle all of the little stuff on my own
 - It's like I trust God ultimately, but I don't trust Him immediately
 - And I'll lose the appreciation of all of the countless ways He blesses me because I'm not looking for his provisions in the every day things, I'm just looking for Him to answer the big things that I might not even see for years to come
- You see the biggest difference between me and my moms perspectives was that her first response in whether finding a parking spot or finding the keys is "Thank you Lord." And mine would have been, "No give me the credit for finding them."
- The power of Daily dependance is that it leads us to a place of constant gratitude
 - And whenever we lose gratitude we lose our spiritual perspective and we lose our spiritual influence
- ***"Only one kind of person transforms the world spiritually, someone with a grateful heart." -Professor Ronald Rolheiser***
 - This is a point that my generation, the millennial generation, needs to hear specifically because our generation loves to think big.
 - Tyler Staton in his book, praying like monks, living like fools points out that Millennials are the most globally minded, socially

conscience, justice oriented, and cause driven generation in history.

- However, we also suffer from the most mental illness, clinical depression, and chronic unhappiness than any generation in history
 - Those are symptoms of good desires out of order
 - It's like we put so much pressure on ourselves to change the world, but forget that we're not the ones who actually can
- I remember after Passion 2013, it was the big push for the End It movement bringing awareness to the human trafficking epidemic in our world
- And after the conference I was on fire about it.
- And I remember my dad telling me, "It's good that you're passionate about this. However, never allow yourself to get so caught up in a cause that you forget the Only One that really has a solution."

- And I know a lot of things factor into all of this, but I can't help but think that one of the main reasons is that our generation struggles so much is because we are so focused on the big picture that we overlook the little things
 - And because of that we are probably also the least grateful generation in history
- The author also points out that, ***"Gratitude is the God-given reward for those who can stomach praying for small things."*** -Tyler Staton: ***Praying Like Monks, Living Like Fools***
- A Harvard study in positive psychology research found that gratitude is strongly and consistently associated with greater happiness. Gratitude helps people feel more positive emotions, relish good experiences, improve their health, deal with adversity, and build strong relationships.

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- And the type of gratitude that we need in our lives is going to come from our Daily Bread Prayers
- What does that look like? It looks like praying through your To-Do list for that day
- Before you leave your house in the morning, or while you're on your drive to work, pray over every aspect of your schedule that day
 - Do you have a meeting coming up? Pray over that meeting. Pray that would give you a fruitful and productive discussion
 - Do you have a project you're working on? Pray for God to give you strength and wisdom to complete it well and to the best of your ability
 - Do you have people that you oversee? Pray that God would give you the ability to be a good leader
 - Do you have someone you work for? Pray that God would give you the ability to be a good follower
- Do you have an off day? Pray that God would give you good rest and give you vision for the upcoming work days
- Are you going through heartache and pain? Pray that God would give you the fortitude just to get through that day
- What we may see as menial or mundane, God sees as a powerful opportunity to allow you to recognize His presence more in your life and to show you how much He cares
- Because it's not like He needs us to tell Him what we need.
- He even said right before He gave the disciples the Lord's prayer, He said, ***"For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him."***- ***Matthew 6:8 (NKJV)***
- So whenever we pray our daily bread prayers, it's not to inform Him on what we need and what we have going on, He already knows!
 - But He wants us still to invite Him into everything, because He will never force

Himself on you. He wants us to ask Him, not for His benefit but for ours.

- So we can be reminded how close He is and how much He cares
- It's so our hearts, our spirit, and our minds can get a dose of the spiritual medicine of gratitude that we need to live healthy and impactful lives.
- It's interesting that David prays in Psalm 30 when he asks God, ***“First, help me never to tell a lie. Second, give me neither poverty nor riches! Give me just enough to satisfy my needs. For if I grow rich, I may deny you and say, “Who is the Lord?” And if I am too poor, I may steal and thus insult God’s Holy Name.” -Psalm 30:8-9 (NLT)***
- David directly linked his daily needs to his relationship with God
- Because he deeply understood that getting everything he could ever want in this life would

still never compare to his need for God in his life.

- That term **Daily Bread** that Jesus used literally meant: **“The bread of our necessity; the subsistence that suffices for each day.”**
- So praying these daily bread prayers allows us to put our selves in the position of never trying to depend on ourselves for anything but we depend on Him for everything because He is what we need above all else.
- So Jesus teaches us to pray for Daily Dependance, and He also teaches us to pray for
- **DAILY DELIVERANCE**
- First, He teaches us to pray for God to deliver us from pride and bitterness when He taught to pray, ***“And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.” -Matthew 6:12 (NKJV)***
- One of the main reason why we have trouble with forgiveness is that we struggle so deeply with pride.

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- We struggle with the idea of God forgiving us because we think too highly of ourselves
 - On one hand, we may think that we have no need for forgiveness, and refuse to admit that we're ever wrong about anything
 - On the other, we may think that our sin is too great and that God would never forgive us even if we asked.
- If we ever think that there is something that we have done or some sort of sin that we committed that God cannot or would not forgive, that is nothing but prideful thinking
- Because that is us thinking that there is something we could do or say that is more powerful than what God has said or already done
- What kind of audacity does it take to buy into thinking that our sin can outweigh the blood of Jesus?
- The Blood of Jesus can, will, and does cover any sin or iniquity that any person could ever commit
- If Jesus can take Paul, a murderous religious zealot, and forgive him and turn him into the greatest missionary the world has ever seen, can He not forgive your sin as well?
- Yet Jesus still tells us to ask for that forgiveness
 - Praying for God to forgive us, leads us to a place of acknowledging that His Grace and His Mercy is so much greater and more powerful than anything we could ever do or anything we have ever done
 - Which will also lead us to a place of gratitude
- But don't miss that Jesus tells us to ask for God's forgiveness, AS we forgive others
- Why? Because forgiven people forgive people
- Pastor Skip Heitzig says, ***"The proof that we're forgiven is that we are forgiving."***
-Skip Heitzig

- Our vertical relationship with God will always have a direct impact on our horizontal relationship with others
 - If our horizontal relationship with other's isn't right, that's probably an indicator that our vertical relationship with God isn't right.
 - You cannot experience a life free in the forgiveness of God if you are not forgiving to other people
- There was one day when Peter came up to Jesus asking him how often we should forgive people
 - He thought he was being all spiritual when he suggested, "Up to 7 times??"
 - And Jesus said, "No, that's not enough. Rather 70 times 7 times.
 - And Jesus wasn't putting an exact number on it. He wasn't saying you can forgive up to 490 times but if they hit 491, then all bets are off
- No, because the number 7 was symbolic, it was the number of completion
- He was also referencing the year of Jubilee whenever every 490 years the people of Israel would have to release all slaves of their service and all debts would have to be completely forgiven no matter how much was owed
- Which all of this was pointing toward the complete forgiveness of God
 - And Jesus tells a parable about a man who owed the king millions of dollars.
 - After begging for forgiveness, the king exonerated him of all of his debts.
 - However that guy immediately went out, found a guy that owed him money and had him thrown in jail until he could pay off his debts.
- Whenever the king heard about it, he brought him in and said, ***"You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you***

pleaded with me. Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?' Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt. "That's what My Heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart."

-Matthew 18: 32-25 (NLT)

- God is in the forgiveness business. And He takes His business very seriously.
 - And way too many Christians claim the forgiveness of Jesus over their lives but refuse to give that same forgiveness to others.
 - That's why Paul tells us in Ephesians 4, ***"And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."*** -Ephesians 4:32 (NKJV)
- And notice that Jesus said to forgive from your heart.

- I think that is very powerful, because sometimes it's not always just pride that leads us to withhold forgiveness, it's bitterness
- And some of us in this room, or some people we know have very good reason to be bitter
- Some have gone through some hurt or betrayal that I wouldn't even be able to truly wrap my head around
 - But like we said in our Step-By-Step series, forgiveness is the act of releasing bitterness from the heart
 - And there will be times where someone has been hurt, abused, betrayed in such a way where that person should never have any contact with the person that hurt them again
 - That's just healthy and practical
 - However, we can release that bitterness over to God and forgive from a distance
- If I am going to be brutally honest with you, I have 2 1/2 people in my life that I struggle with holding bitterness against

- And I feel as if I have very good reason to be bitter with them
 - And if I were to confront them about it, it wouldn't do any good, I know that.
 - Sometimes it does, but in these cases I just know it's not the right move
 - So I have a choice. I can sit and sulk, feel sorry for myself, and allow that bitterness to consume me and hinder my prayer life
 - OR, as I seek God's forgiveness in my life I can ask Him to take that bitterness from me today and to help me forgive them from my heart
- And that's a daily practice. Because I know that tomorrow I can find myself stewing over those situations again, and that's when I need to pray for that bitterness to be released again and give it over to God
- It so funny, how we can give things over to God one day, lay our burdens at His feet and feel great about it. And the next day, it's like we go before God again and say, "You know what Lord, I'm gonna take that one back."
- And that only ever happens whenever we look past the forgiveness that God has granted to us, and our daily need for it
- Pastor Jeremy gives this example. He says, I can't be choking somebody out, take a break from it to give God a hug and accept His forgiveness, and go back to choking them.
 - No we let go of the grip of bitterness to embrace the forgiveness of God, and then we extend the same forgiveness to others that He has given to us
- So when we pray for forgiveness, we are praying for deliverance from Pride and Bitterness, and in the next portion of the prayer we are praying for Deliverance from Temptation and spiritual attack.
- Jesus teaches to pray, "***And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.***" -***Matthew 6:13a (NKJV)***

- Lead us into temptation?
- That statement seems a bit strange. Why would we need to ask God not to lead us into temptation. Would He do so if we didn't specifically ask Him not to?
- I don't think that could be the case because James says, ***“When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone; but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.”***
-James 1:13-15 (NIV)
 - So temptation to sin, never comes from God and is never initiated by God
 - We can never use the excuse that “God tempted me,” or that “God lead me to temptation.” No whenever we sin, that is on us.
- And because we know that we still have that sin nature inside of us and that natural propensity to sin, we know that we will face temptation every day
- So when Jesus says, “Lead us not...” that gives the connotation that we are already following Him in the first place rather than our desire
- So we are asking God, *“As we are following Your guidance in everything in our every day lives, allow us to be so consumed by You, so focused on You, that we don't even give temptation the time of day.”*
- And if we do get distracted by temptation, lead us quickly back to You and show us the way out.
 - Paul tells us in 1 Cor 10 ***“No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide***

the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.” -1 Corinthians 10:13 (ESV)

- The only way to endure temptation is to escape it, and the only way to escape it is to run to God your Father
- This is something we will talk about multiple times a year every year as long as we are a church family
- And that is that you NEVER fight temptation, you flee it
- You flee right to the arms of God
- You don't walk yourself right into a temptful situation and then pray, ahhh lord don't let me be tempted, and then get mad at Him when you fall
- You know good and well which temptations you are most susceptible to
- So you pray to be more focused on the Lord and His purposes for you today than those things

- *You may be prone to anger. You can pray “God, lead me to focus on Your patience and kindness instead today.”*
- *You may be prone to lust. You can pray “God, lead me to think about whatever is pure, noble and right today like Philippians 4:8 says.”*
- *You may be prone to put your needs above the needs of others. You can pray, “God, lead me to a better understanding of Your love, and love other’s through me today.”*
- There are only 2 people that know what temptations you struggle with better than you do. And that is God, and satan.
- That’s why Jesus teach us to pray, “Deliver us from the evil one.”
 - Oh yes, the evil one is real.
- Spiritual warfare is real. Spiritual attacks will happen.
 - It’s interesting that Jesus says, “Deliver us,” rather than “protect us”

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- He's not saying, "keep us from the evil one," He's saying, "Rescue us from the evil one."
- Jesus' phrasing here shows us that we do not ask to be removed from the battle, but rather we ask for God to intervene within the battle
- Make no mistake, whenever you are a child of God, and a conduit of the Holy Spirit of Heaven, whenever you are living on a mission for the Kingdom of God....you will be in the enemies line of sights
 - Now, I say the enemy, and not satan specifically because I don't want to give satan more credit than he deserves.
 - He is not omnipresent, he cannot be in multiple places at one time, and I think he's got bigger fish to fry than Kenny Hall
 - However we still do experience spiritual attack from those under his command
- I've shared before how comical it almost is, how Rachel and I keep experiencing one personal financial hit after another, ever since we started services up here in this building.
 - Something out there doesn't like this happening, and wants Rachel and I to start thinking, "Man, we could be making so much more money doing something else..."
- About two weeks ago, Saturday night, trying to get rest for the Sunday gathering, I couldn't get a wink of sleep. Any time I would start to dose off, I would get these weird dark thoughts run-in through my head
 - Little did I know, I found out the next day that same night anytime Rachel would fall asleep she would have very dark, demonic dreams.
 - Something didn't want that specific message to be communicated or at least communicated clearly that Sunday morning.
- But ALL THAT IS, is confirmation that we are doing what the Lord wants us to be doing.
 - All it does is authenticate the direction we feel like the Lord has been taking us in.

- And even though we may experience attacks from the evil ones, we are delivered from their tactics and their lies
 - That's all satan is, a liar.
 - The Bible says that he is the father of lies.
 - And you know, the only power a liar ever has is getting someone to believe a lie, that's why the truth set's you free.
 - So the enemy wants you to buy into the lie that they have power, strength, and influence over your life.
- But Jesus concludes this prayer template with the most freeing Truth that we could ever declare over our lives. He says Deliver us from evil.... ***"For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."***
-Matthew 6:13b
- The Kingdom doesn't belong to satan, the power doesn't belong to satan, the glory doesn't belong to satan
- NO, he has already been defeated, he is nothing but Jesus' footstool
- He is nothing but a liar, and a fraud, a loser trying to give the illusion of winning
- And yes, he may be stronger than us. He may be more powerful than we are, he may be more cunning
- But that's why we stand in the Power and The Glory that is the Kingdom of God because we're not fighting FOR Victory we are Fighting FROM Victory.
- Pauls says, ***"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."*** -Romans 8:37 (ESV)
- That means, if we're standing in the Love, acceptance, and presence of God...not only can we not lose...but any petty attack from the enemy will only make us stronger in our faith and more dangerous to their agenda
 - No weapon formed against you shall prosper
 - If God is For us, who can be against us.

- Jesus isn't teaching us to pray for a shield of protection, He's teaching us to pray a battle cry.
- Man, Jesus told Peter in Matthew 16:18,
“On this rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”
-Matthew 16:18 (ESV)
 - And for so long, so many Christians, along with myself, would read that verse, get pumped up and say, “YEA! God's going to build his church, and no matter how the enemy invades or attacks, we're built on the Solid Rock and there is nothing the enemy can do to defeat us!!”
 - But then I remember reading that verse one day, and it just hitting me in the face...I thought, “Wait a minute, gates are built for defense.”
 - Jesus is saying, the Gates of hell, won't prevail against us...
- That means we're supposed to be on the attack.
- That means means we're supposed to be on the offensive not the defensive
- But for some reason, the we have bought into this strategy of just building up our walls, huddling together in a safe place on Sunday mornings, praying for God to deliver us from the evil of the outside world, we put up our own gates and cage ourself in and call it church
 - But Jesus says His church isn't one that defends their ground, but takes ground
- I was asked not long ago, why do we need more church plants here in hickory when we already have so many other churches
- And I'm not exactly sure, it's a thought I had myself throughout this while planting process.
- But the only explanation I can think of, and the only one that I need, is that there must be more

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ground that God wants to take here in Catawba County

- There's ground He wants to take in these apartment complexes and neighborhoods
 - There's ground He wants to take at Conovor School
 - There's ground He wants to take at Lenoir Rhyne University
 - There's ground He wants to take at Longview Elementary and the surrounding area
 - There's Ground He wants to take at Ardnt Middle and Snow Creek
 - There's ground He wants to take in this community, in this city, and this county and by the Grace of God we just might get the chance to be a part of it
 - That's why we're here
 - That's why the church exists
- Ever since Jesus ascended into Heaven and sat down at the right hand of the Father the

local church has been His plan-A for advancing His Kingdom and Will on Earth as it is in Heaven

- And if there is even a chance that there are some souls out there that can be claimed for the Kingdom of God because He chose to let us be here, then man, it will all be worth it.