



Sermon – July 18, 2021
Jed Coppenger

Verses Covered This Week

Matthew 6:9 – 13

Hebrews 4:16

Amen. As you grab your seat, I invite you to grab your Bible, if you have one, and turn to Matthew chapter 6. Matthew chapter 6. We'll be in verses 9 through 13. And as you turn there, just want to say how grateful I am for the opportunity to be here with you today on this day. Phillip and Cami Bethancourt are some of our best friends in all the world. And eight years ago, we started our church and they moved to town just as the time for us to make them come to our church. And they were with us through the ups and downs and we knew it was a limited time offer like it is most of the time for Texans. He let us know he was on a mission trip outside of the state of Texas, but one day he would be returning, Lord willing. And I tell you, I haven't come across a family that I believe is more gifted and more godly, more loving, and we wouldn't be where we are as a church without them and Phillip helping on the leadership team at Redemption City Church over the last several years. And we hope that they are half the blessing that, to you guys that they were to us and you will be thankful indeed. And so, grateful for this opportunity to open up God's word. Matthew chapter 6, verses 9 through 13. And this is Jesus talking on the Sermon on the Mount. He's there next to the Sea of Galilee. In this portion of the Sermon on the Mount, He's talking about prayer. He says this:

⁹Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. ¹⁰Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us this day our daily bread, ¹²and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Let's pray.

Father, we thank You. We thank You for everything that You've done in Christ to make this moment possible. We thank You for the blood bought salvation of Jesus Christ. We thank You for the empty tomb. We thank You that because of the cross, we can never question Your love. And because of the empty tomb, we should never question Your power. And because of how it played out, we should never question Your wisdom. And I know we have people here listening in person and online who are wrestling with all kinds of different challenges. And I pray that

Your Spirit would work miraculously in each person's heart so that when they leave this place, they have sense that God, You spoke to them and You transformed them personally. We pray these things in Jesus name. Amen.

So, as Phillip said, today I am going to talk about prayer. It's one of my favorite topics to talk about. In fact, if I had one sermon to talk about, this would be the message I would like to preach. But I do know that most people don't want to hear a message on prayer. I know some of you do, but I know most of the people, at least where I am in Tennessee, when they hear there's a message on prayer, don't get excited. If we have a night where it's going to be a special night of prayer, it's not usually highly attended in our area. Maybe it is in your area, you're Texans and you're spectacular in a lot of different ways. I just want you to know, for most of my Christian life, it wasn't something I was really excited about either. But God did a work in our hearts several years ago that completely changed. It just kind of finally made things click for me in a way that changed how I think about prayer. Because it changed how I think about God. I believe with all my heart that God can do more in a moment than we can do in a lifetime. And I believe that He unleashes that unmatched power on behalf of undeserving people. I believe that because that's what we see in the Scriptures over and over and over again. We see it in the life of Abraham and Sarah. We see it in the life of Joseph. We see it in the life of Moses. We see it in the life of Israel. We see it in the life of David and Esther and Daniel and on and on throughout the Old Testament and in the New Testament church. God unleashing His power on behalf of undeserving people to help them with their problems, to help them with their plans. And I believe God still does that today. I believe that's why Jesus is teaching His disciples how to pray. Because He wants them to understand how their problems and how their plans are meant to connect them to the power and presence of God. I found that most people don't have an approach to prayer that helps them get to a place where they feel like it's a meaningful, life-changing, day-to-day reality. One that they can pass on to their kids and grandkids. When most people are asked about their prayer life, they ask, how's your prayer life? Well, it's not what it should be. Well, of course it's not what it should be. But most of us aren't bothered by that. I think Jesus wants us to be bothered by that. I think He wants us to be a people who can look at the end of our lives and have hundreds if not thousands of specific answers to prayer in our lives, written down, testimony to God's grace that He's still working today here in Texas like He's worked throughout the ages. And I think in order for that to happen, we need to see at least four statements that I'm going to give to you from this Lord's Prayer.

And the first one is: believe God can do anything. If you want to have a prayer life that changes your world, it starts by believing that God can do anything. Look what He says in verse 9 there.

[Pray then like this, our Father in heaven](#)

Jesus starts by, His instruction on prayer by pointing their attention to God as Father. And probably, we're so familiar with that, we just move on past that. We live in a Christian culture where God's fatherhood is all over the place. We've heard about it growing up. We have songs about that. All of that is good. But at that time, it wasn't, it wasn't the situation. People didn't refer to God as Father. In fact, at that time, it would have been presumptuous to refer to the God of heavens as your Father. Jesus says, if you want to understand the prayer life He wants you to have, you need to start by understanding God as Father. Because a lot has changed over the years about what it means to be a Father. But one thing is true in most cultures of all times and

every place, which is Fathers do what's best for their kids. Father's do what's best for their kids. Jesus wants us to think about a father who is what? In heaven. He's in heaven. Why is that important? For many of us, it feels like that communicates distance. But if you know your Bible, it communicates competence. He wants us to know we have a Father who is the same God of Psalm 115:3. What does Psalm 115:3 say? It says,

³Our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.

Babylon's not too much for Him. Egypt's not too much for Him. Rome's not too much for Him. Death is not too much for Him. Our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases. Jesus wants us to know here from the very beginning that if we want to have the prayer life He wants us to have, we need to understand how we need to view God. We have a God who is willing because He is a father. We have a God who is able because He's in heaven. And of course, that changes our view of Him, Jesus wants us to change our view of ourselves. We are His kids, and listen, we are His kids at that stage where we believe our father can do anything. You remember that stage parents, or you kids, have they ever been at that stage? I've got three children. I've got a 13-year-old, a 12-year-old, and a 9-year-old that thinks he's a 19-year-old. And I remember several years ago when we were playing what I would loosely define as baseball. You know what I'm talking about? It's that age where it's more about, "No, we face this way. Stop chasing that." Like that kind of baseball, baseball. And my oldest son who was 5-years-old at the time, who's a bit of a chatterbox like his dad, and we were heading home from baseball practice. I was coaching; I love to coach sports. And he was unusually quiet, which was a nice change in some kind of, in some ways. But it was also a little bit weird. And I just looked back in my mirror and he was looking out there, the window, the truck window's down, and he's just sitting there and he just finally says as we're turning into our neighborhood, "Dad, you threw the ball all the way from 1st base to 3rd base in the air." I looked to see if he's joking, because 1st base is like from that speaker to that speaker, you know. I said, "Yeah." And he leaned back and looked out the window and smiled, I'll never forget it. And he said, "Dad, is there anything you can't do?" It didn't take long for him to learn the answer. But that, that disposition, that childlike wonder, he saw me do something and it expanded his definition of what was possible in that moment. That right there, that, if you could capture that moment, that's the heart of where prayer starts. But you don't just raise the question, you believe it. You start the day as you look at your plans and your problems and you say, I believe my God can do anything. You walk with that childlike faith. That's what he's talking about throughout the New Testament. He wants you to be a person, listen, Derwin Gray, I love this quote, he says, "We become a child of God in an instant, but it takes a lifetime to learn how to live in it." You don't move on from the grace of God, you just move into a deeper understanding of the grace of God. And how do you know your view of God is, do you believe He can do anything? I think most of us most days would say with our mouths, "Yeah, we believe that." But our prayer life would say we don't. One of the major things you need to fight if you want to have a flourishing, everyday prayer life and get to the end of your life with hundreds if not thousands of specific answers to prayer, one of the things you need to battle every day is unbelief. You need to battle the tendency in our heart to not believe God can help us. You know why we don't believe that? We sing that we do, we, we say that we do, but at the end of the day, if you aren't asking God for your help, you're saying you don't think He can help you. The reason maybe you didn't pray this morning is because you thought He couldn't really make a difference. But He can do more in a moment than you can do in a lifetime. You've got to battle unbelief. Paul Miller, in his excellent book *A Praying Life*,

says, “Oddly enough, many people struggle to learn how to pray because they’re focusing on praying, not on God.” What does your prayer life say you believe about who God is and what He can do? If you want to have the prayer life Jesus wants you to have, you need to believe God can do anything. But you can’t stop there. You need to embrace the childlike identity. That’s what we just touched on a second there, right. If He is the Father, Jesus doesn’t just want to change the view that we have of God when we think about prayer, He wants that view to change how we view ourselves. He wants us to embrace a childlike identity. We have a Father who is in heaven which means we are His children in Christ on earth.

Now at that time, people didn’t think about being a child the same way we do; they were still recognized that they’re weak and they struggle. They’re not as strong as we are. They’re dependent. They need help doing all kinds of different things. Listen, this weekend, all the kids that we mentioned, believe me, they need help doing all kinds of different things. We were aware of it this weekend. People at that time didn’t want to be someone thought of that’s dependent. They want to be thought of as self-sufficient. And in many ways we all want that and there’s a good and healthy way. But one of the ways that that goes sideways is when we don’t ask God for help more and more the older that we get. This would have been a shot to the pride. Jesus knows this, and listen, don’t miss this, it’s important. Because pride doesn’t pray. How do you know? The grip that pride has on your heart, look at your prayer life. Pride doesn’t pray. Pride doesn’t ask God for help. It thinks it’s better if it just gets to work or reads more articles or does, whatever it is, anything else but ask God for help. Because we have this, the 21st century here in the middle of Texas, we have this. Pride doesn’t pray. That means you have to battle pride if you want to pray. You’ve got to battle unbelief, you’ve got to battle pride. Jesus, He’s emphasizing this same childlike dependency in John 15:5. He says:

⁵.....apart from me you can do nothing.

If you want to pray like Jesus wants you to pray, you have to battle pride. You need to embrace that childlike dependency.

But listen, you also embrace a childlike boldness that comes with it. Children can be bold towards their kids, to their parents in a way that no one else can. Right? I mean that’s why you talk to parents in this room, most of us have a story like we have at our house where a moment or an experience where in the middle of the night your kids came into your room. They woke you up. And my guess is they didn’t say, “Listen, dad, I’m so sorry. I know you’ve had a long day. Oh, dad, I know it’s Saturday night and you’ve got to preach tomorrow. But could you help me find the monsters in my room?” And ours, I never forget one time, they couldn’t find their blanket. So you get up and you walk in there, you turn on the lights and you know where it was? Parents, you know where it was. It’s right where they were laying. They couldn’t do this. They needed to come wake me up. Right? That’s boldness. Right? If a co-worker did that, that would be, there would be a different conversation. Children can be bold towards their parents in a way no one else can. God knows this. He designed everything like this. He wants us to be marked by that so that we bring in these things. That’s why he talks about in Hebrews 4:16:

¹⁶Let us then with boldness draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Jesus wants us to embrace a childlike identity daily. Which means embracing our dependency, our weakness, it means embracing the boldness. I'm in conversation after conversation with people who are just getting started in a prayer life who will, who ask questions like, is it OK to ask God about this? We just can't get these trees out of our back yard. We can't find the right person. Is it OK to ask God about? Yeah. Somehow we have in our minds this idea that God only wants to talk to us about spiritual Sunday Bible things. What kind of father would I be if my kids came to me with a need, I said, "No, no, no, no. If it's not one of these six things, I don't want to hear it. I'll talk to you about your Bible reading. I'll talk to you about evangelism. I'll talk to you about generosity, and I want to talk to you about that generosity. I want to talk to you about a lot of these different things here. But I don't want to hear about your baseball game. I don't want to hear about your work." God's more loving than us. He's more gracious than us. And yet, so often we think we need to get our prayer list just right and enter into our presence as if we can do something to enter into His presence as if the blood isn't enough. Jesus has done everything necessary for you and all of your mess to come in just as you are. He's interested in the real you, not the pretend you. Bring with that childlike boldness the requests, the places that your mind is drifting to when I'm talking. It's OK. We all do it, right. Those things. He wants to meet you there. He is a father this morning interested in your problems and plans than you are. He's designed your life. He's orchestrating your life to make those, to help you become more like Jesus through those with His help. If you want to have the prayer life that Jesus wants you to have, you need to believe God can do anything, you need to embrace a childlike identity, and then you need to specify your request. Specify your request. That's what He helps them do there in the following verses. He says:

⁹Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. ¹⁰Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Here He tells his followers to pray that God's name would be hallowed, or made holy. Not because it's not holy and we're praying that it becomes holy; we're praying that it gets recognized as holy. Recognized as preeminent, as most important in our hearts, in our homes, in our workplace, in our church, and in our world. And as we do that, we're praying that His kingdom would come. We're praying that His will be done. All of these flow from the first one so that things would be on earth as they are in heaven. His name is hallowed in heaven. It's treated, He's treated and recognized. People are most interested in God in heaven. They're preoccupied with Him. They're preoccupied about His kingdom and His will. They are alive and they are thriving. That's true freedom. We're praying that that would happen on earth. And yet so often when we think about those words, we just want to press repeat on them. We don't understand how practically He's providing a pathway to pray in our lives. But remember, Jesus said in verse 9, pray then like this. Not exactly like this. You can. What's that look like practically? It means this. How do you know when God's name been hallowed like it should? In your heart, in your home, in your workplace. How do you know? How do you know when His kingdom's come? How do you know when His will is being done? The Bible. The Bible tells us. It tells us how God's name should be treated. What God's kingdom looks like. What His will is. When you understand that, you understand that Jesus is wanting us to pray our Bible. Don't just read it. So when you read things like, be holy as I am holy, you don't just read that and then go do your best. You, you include a little step there of, "God, help me. Help me be holy in my home. Help me have a holy heart when I'm looking at my phone. Help me have a holy heart when I'm dealing with the frustrations of life. Help me do this." You're praying your Bible, not just reading your Bible. Do you pray your Bible? Jesus wants us to pray our Bible.

That's how we get specific. There's as many prayers as there are Bible verses that you can look at. He also wants us to pray our plans. The assumption here is that the children of God are about their heavenly Father's business wherever they go. So we pray our plans. You pray your plans. Think about Covey, Stephen Covey's Roles to Goals. I have my 5 main roles and I pray my plans in each one of those things. I trust, I pray, I hope that God's advancing His kingdom and His will through those threes.

But we don't just pray our Bible. We don't just pray our plans. We pray our problems. Notice what every single one of verses 11 through 13 prayer requests, how do they start? Verse 11, give us this daily our daily bread. That's a provision problem. And forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors. That's a guilt problem. And lead us not in to temptation, but deliver us from evil. That's a spiritual warfare problem. You notice that? Have you ever seen that before? Every one of these prayer requests start because of some problem, whether it's existing or anticipated. It's a child that is looking at a world that says, "I can't handle this world." That's a problem. I need help with my provision. I need help with grace. I need help in this warfare that we all find ourselves in. The problems are pray. Did you know that your problems are designed to increase your prayer life? Pray your problems and you'll never run out of material to pray. For the longest time, I wrestled with, "What does Paul mean when he says, pray unceasing?" Right? And you just think, I mean, can I ever like go play basketball? Can I do a lot of these? Well, when you realize you've got unceasing problems, you realize, oh, that's one way. That's just one way. Do you pray your problems? And listen, when you pray your problems, get specific. Don't just get vague. Write down a prayer that's specific enough to where you know whether God answered your prayer or not. Our church, we talked about how specificity leads to visibility. When we get specific with a prayer request, we give the invisible God a chance to become visible in our hearts and lives. Specificity leads to visibility. Are you a specific prayer? Most of us, I think, aren't. Most of us struggle from what I call the vague prayer syndrome. You know what I'm talking about? The vague prayer syndrome goes like this. It's OK to pray vague prayers, but when you only do it, that's when you have it. And here's what it is. God would you bless today? What's the answer? Yes. Yeah, He's going to do that one. God would you be with us? He's already promised to do that, but yes, He's going to do that one too. That's OK to pray those prayer requests, right. But my guess is, you've never told a friend this in a way that ignited the childlike wonder that He wants your prayer life to ignite. You've never said, God, You will not believe this. We were eating lunch after church and then we got together and it was crazy and the kids were everywhere and I just then I forgot, oh yeah, I need to probably pray and so I said, "God, would you just be with us?" And He was. And everybody's like, "What? Hold on, I got to call somebody and tell them about this." Pastor Phillip preached about like having devotions as a family and you guys will not believe this. It was Monday morning and I was thinking, alright, at least we're going to get one day in. We got the family together and we got, God would you bless today, amen. And we went out our different ways. We got to the end and He did it! He blessed the family." Now listen, absolutely pray those prayers. In fact, after preaching sermons like this, I've gone to lunch, prayed that prayer, and my kid said, "Oh, vague prayer syndrome." Nothing against that. What I'm saying is, let's make sure we're working in some specific prayer requests. Because when you get specific, you give the invisible God an opportunity to become visible, real in your hearts and in your homes and in our world in a way He wouldn't without that prayer. Jesus says, sometimes you have not because you ask not. But when He answers some of those requests, I'm telling you, it causes in your heart what Josiah was feeling in his heart when he was like, "Dad, is there

anything you can't do?" I'll never forget years ago, our church is in conversation, it's a church start, we were in conversation with a potential, someone that we were going to buy their land, a farm I grew up working on there in Tennessee. And he wanted us to buy a lot and we didn't want to buy a lot and we couldn't afford a lot. And so we kind of went back and forth and back and forth and I'll just, finally in the midst of all this, we learned kind of some things about prayer and I just wrote down in my little Evernote Roles to Goals card there, God would You cause them to give us his land. Not a great prayer. October 4th of that year, I'll never forget it. And about nine months later I'm sitting at a table, I've been praying that prayer, and you know, who know. Sometimes I had faith, sometimes I probably didn't have faith. He said, "Hey, listen, here's what I'd like to do. You guys, you guys just buy the small amount you're comfortable buying and then my wife and I, Ms. Francis and I, we'll give you the rest." So we bought 7 acres, he gave us 23.3 acres in Winston County, which is an area that cost little bit to buy some land like that. So he gave us a few million dollars here, right. So that's one of those things where I don't know if that's normal here. It's not normal in our area. That's one of those where I'm hearing you say. It doesn't take great prayers to see great things. It just takes a great God. Specificity leads to visibility. The land's great, but the encounter and the awareness of God in that moment is so much better than he can ever give you. You better believe our definition of what's possible for our church and our future, it changes in that moment. When we get, it would have been awesome if he give us the land anyways, but when you get specific, you give the invisible God a chance to become visible in your hearts and the hearts of those around you as well. I'll never forget one December we had taken some steps as our young church that we had never taken, and we had more staff, we had more bills, and I was praying, "Lord, in December, would you give us the biggest, the biggest amount of December we've ever had?" And sometimes those can be really, really big and we can make up a lot of financial needs in that moment. It was the lowest December we ever had. You know that's one of those where you get your phone and you're like, "God, don't you remember?" What was that line that I used for the land? You know, like, how do I? So we go into January, we have a 21 Days of Prayer emphasis and one, you better believe one of mine, Lord, will you just make the money appear? It's about 15% of our budget. Guy reaches out to me, takes me to lunch that week, first week, not a member of our church. He says, "You know we give to your church?" I said, "No, I don't know what you give." And he told me, I said, Well, thank you. He said, "But I just got a huge raise. So this is what I'm going to be giving this year." It was exactly the difference between what we got and what I was praying for. Doesn't take great prayers to see great things. Just need a great God. Specificity leads to visibility. And listen, it's not just for super-spiritual church things. I know some of you are thinking, "Oh year, pastor, yeah, of course you're going to get those things for the church." We've had story after story of people, people that have been trying to get book deals got book deals. We have people that, one person couldn't afford to go on a vacation and they said, "Alright, Jed, we're going to, I'm just going to, God would you just provide a free vacation spot?" That week, randomly, so would you provide some for the end of the week? And on Wednesday, he accidentally called a friend and started catching up, conversation leads to a thing which leads to a thing. Next thing you know they've got a free spot in the place they wanted. In a way that it's kind of like, "Whoa, this thing, He's here." Kind of a moment. One of my neighbors and best friends, he's an entrepreneur and sometimes you can do really well, sometimes you don't do really well. He's made a fortune, he's lost a fortune. And he was in a long drought and he's one of those things, you're making the money, you're putting it back in the business, you're trying to get it going, you know. And he's just going and selling things to make it work. They're hoping it's going to hit and he's, listen, I know I'm Jed from Tennessee.

He makes me sound like I'm from Boston, OK. Like it's one of those kind of Tennesseans. And he had to sell his truck. When the good boy lose that truck, you know, his wife's dropping him off at work. And in the middle of the prayer emphasis he prayed, "God would You provide me a truck?" No one knew he was praying that but his family. My neighbor lets me know, "Hey, yeah, I'm moving back to California, I'm going to, I think, let Nathan use my unbelievable truck." He didn't say unbelievable truck, I did. He goes over and says, "Hey would you, if you mow my grass while I'm gone, would you, you can use this truck for the next couple years." My buddy, one of the toughest guys I've ever known in my life, laid on the ground and wept before his kids. It's not about the truck. It's about the God who is present, who can do anything, who always does what's best for His kids. Does that mean He always does what we request? No. But nobody here has a problem believing that.

Well, what do you do with your "no's"? Well, that's why it's so important to remember the last statement which is, trust God to do what's best with your request. Very quickly here, how should the prayer end? Well, verse 13, Jesus ends by saying, lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. He doesn't even say in Jesus name. I don't think Jesus messed up here. I think it's not about the order; it's about the elements. How do we end? Well, we can end in Jesus name, but if you don't end in Jesus' name, He's still going to hear that prayer if you're a following of Jesus and still work on your behalf. The key thing I think is so important that I missed for so long in my life is you need to remember who you're talking to. And when you remember who you're talking to, you can walk out of that conversation without the burden you brought into it. I'll never forget when it clicked for me. I came home from work and one of those days when you're still kind of going through the motions, but your mind's a lot of different places. I was in the kitchen going through the mail and I heard kids in the next room. Someone go, "Ow! I'm telling." Parents, you know, you hear that march to justice. "Dad, so and so hit me." And so I said, "I'll take care of it." Turned around, walked back in, self-righteously I hear him, "Dad said he's going to take care of it." He didn't know when I would take care of it. He didn't know how I'd take care of it. All he knew was the who. And because he knew the who, he was able to leave that conversation without the burden he brought into it. And many of you this morning have something like that in your life that you don't quite understand. Here a year later from John's death, I still don't understand it. I don't think I'll ever understand it in this life. But I've been in enough conversations and pastored enough years to know that everybody in here probably has something like that in their life that they don't understand. How God could love them and this could be in their life. The answer to peace, the answer to moving forward isn't understanding; it's childlike trust. And when you understand who you're talking to, it enables you to walk out of that conversation without the burden you brought into him. And it's not, isn't necessarily a one time thing. You'll have to do it over and over. And listen, don't feel bad, Jesus did the same kind of thing. You remember what happened in the Garden of Gethsemane? Jesus said, "Take this cup from me." He didn't just say it one time; 3 times Jesus prays, "Take this cup from me. Take this cup form me." But what does He say? "Not my will, but Yours be done." Jesus got "no" in that moment. Why? Jesus got a "no" in the Garden of Gethsemane so that He could give you a "yes" when you prayed for salvation in your sin. Jesus goes to a cross and is put on that wooden instrument of torture. He drinks the cup of God's wrath so that He could extend to you a cup of God's mercy and salvation. He drank the whole thing. That problem in your life is not because He didn't drink all of God's wrath and God's taking it out on you because of that one thing you didn't do or that one thing you did do. And if you just would have done things differently, your life would have been better. God doesn't work

that way. We know that because we see the cross, we see what He did for us, we see the sacrifice. Listen, I've got 3 kids; I wouldn't give up one of them for you. He's got one. He's got one who died for you, who was raised from you, and it only made sense to the people around them after the resurrection. Most of our questions won't make sense until after our resurrection. We walk in faith, not in sight. But he's shown us enough before our eyes to help us walk in childlike trust. Have you called out to Him to save you? I tell you what, John passing away is an absolute tragedy. But it's not near the tragedy of someone week in and week out having the gospel laid before him and they continue to push it back. One day we'll all stand where John has already stood. And our only hope will be the blood of Jesus Christ. John knew that. He lived for that. It's not going to be, it's not going to seem near as persuasive for those of you who are pushing off that decision to come to Christ that say, "You know, I meant to get to it." What about this opportunity? "I had a lot going on. It wasn't the right time." We've been praying that God would work in your heart today. Today would be your day of salvation. We're going to have a moment where you can respond to that call here in just a bit. But let me tell you something. Those of you who have already responded, you still need to look to that cross. It's still the same design. There's a lot of questions in your mind, but He wants to answer specific prayers for you and He's got a lot of things that you're going to need to trust Him with as well. Jesus says, "You're a follower of mine, you're a child of God." And children pray by believing God can do anything embracing their childlike identity, specifying their requests, and trusting God to do what's best with their request.

Let's pray.

Father, thank You. Thank You for doing everything necessary for people like us and all of our mess to be made right with You, to be reconciled to You, to have a future, to have a hope, to have a new Father, to have a new future. God, I pray for those who have not yet received the gift of salvation that You bought with Your Son's blood. I pray that today would be the day of their salvation. That this would be the day that they look back on 10,000 years from now, they would say, "This is the day that the Spirit of God brought life into me and I took that step of faith and was born again." God, I pray for those of us who have already been born again. God, I pray that You would help us to walk in greater trust and greater childlike wonder. That we wouldn't look at our problems and plans based on what we can do, but based on what You can do and what You're doing. Would You cause us to pray specifically. Pray these things in Jesus name. Amen.