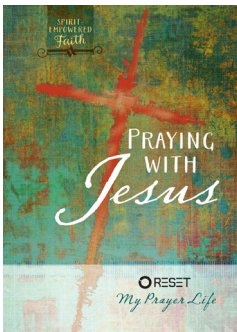


The Jesus Now Sermon Series

We are living in an extraordinary moment in time when God is awakening the world through the reconciling love of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit. What if the Lord was already awakening you, your family, your church, your city? Are you open to His Spirit sweeping through your life? Because of Jesus, our churches, nation, and lives will never be the same again.

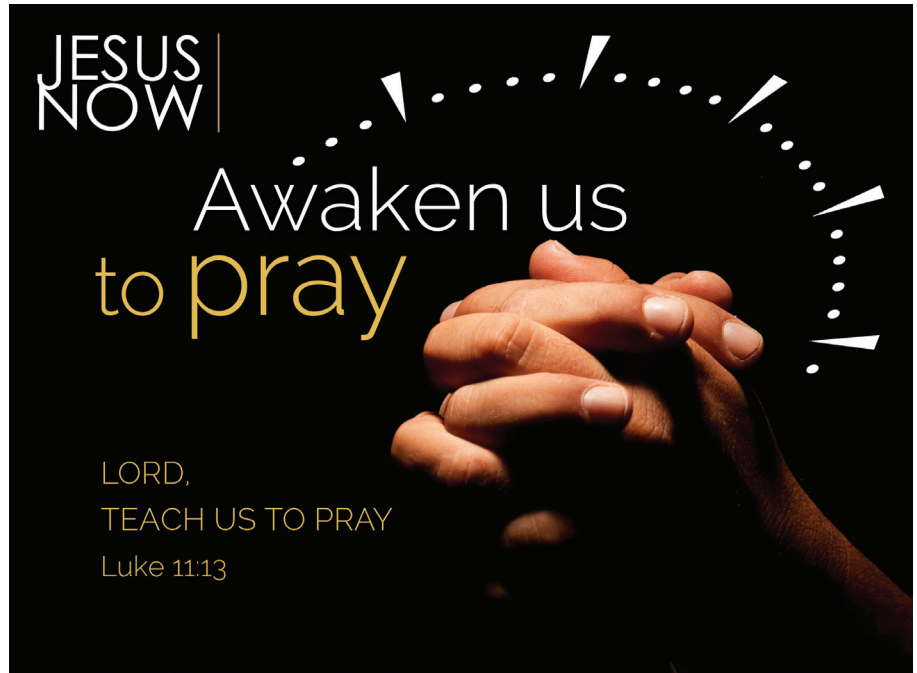
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This sermon has been adapted from a *Praying With Jesus* article entitled "God's Name for Us" by Dave Butts.

[Click here for the article](#)

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I. Introduction

The Gospel of Luke records a surprising interaction. Jesus had gone away to pray in a private place, but when He returned one of the disciples asked, "Lord, teach us to pray." Isn't it amazing who initiated this conversation? We know Jesus would have considered prayer an important topic for His disciples, but it wasn't Christ who initiated the conversation.

- Could it be that the Lord wanted the disciples to conclude the importance of prayer on their own?
- Could it be that He was waiting for them to decide that they wanted to see the power of God demonstrated clearly and consistently in their own lives?

Jesus was ready and willing to teach on prayer, but only when His disciples were eager to learn (Luke 11:1-13). So it is with us. Jesus longs to make us a people of prayer. In this Jesus Now awakening, He is calling and empowering us to pray.

II. Awaken to What He Has Called You!

"My house will be called a house of prayer" – Isaiah 56:7

The Bible tells us that God has chosen a name for His own house. In Isaiah 56:7, the Lord says, "These will I bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations".

This becomes especially relevant to us when we understand that God's house was not in any way limited to the temple in Jerusalem. God's house existed long before the temple or its predecessor, the Tabernacle of Moses. And it exists even now and will continue when this age is over and earth ceases to exist in its current form. It is an eternal house and is forever a place of communion with God.



W-3 Yielding to the Scripture's protective cautions and transforming power to bring life change in me

As we begin to understand that the Church today is God's house, it is critical that we comprehend what it means to live in or be a house that has been named by God as a house of prayer.

Walking in the Light of God's Word... Through Frequent Experiences of Scripture (John 12:35; Psalm 119: 105)

I John 5:14–15 says, "If we ask according to His will, He hears, and we will have the request we ask."

Pause quietly before the Lord and ask Him to change you, to make you a person who reflects His name. Based upon God's declaration in Isaiah 56:7, we know this prayer is according to His will, so boldly declare your desire to become more of His "House of Prayer."

Close with an expression of faith and thanks.

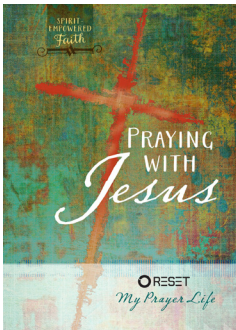
"Thank you, Lord for your Spirit's work in me; teach me to pray."

III. Awaken to Brokenness Before Him

Announce a time of fasting; call the people together for a solemn meeting. Bring the leaders and all the people of the land into the Temple of the Lord your God, and cry out to him there. The day of the Lord is near, the day when destruction comes from the Almighty. How terrible that day will be! (Joel 1:14–15).

The answer to our spiritual crisis will not be found in the ballot box but in the prayer closet. The answer to our personal and corporate dilemmas will not come through high tech, hyperbole, and hype. It will come through a fresh touch from the Lord who wants to speak to us, move us, and manifest His mighty presence.

We are in the same condition as God's people during the time of the prophet Joel. The alarm is sounding and we must respond to it. It's time for the church to wake up, just as the priests and the ministers of the Lord in Joel's day were shaken out of their sleep over the sinfulness of Judah. If we are to know God's supernatural power, we, too, must have spirits that are contrite and broken. It broke the priests' hearts that they could not make any offering at all to God. God's judgment had been so mighty that there was nothing left to offer. They wept and wailed before the God of heaven. They humbled themselves through fasting. They demanded national repentance by calling for a solemn assembly to cry out to the Lord.



Portions of this sermon have been adapted from a *Praying With Jesus* article entitled "Power of Prayer and Fasting" by Ronnie Floyd.

[Click here for the article](#)

- When was the last time we were broken with grief over our own sins and alienation from our heavenly Father?
- When was the last time we confessed with tears that we were playing church games—just showing up so we could show off—while we knew we were little more than a sordid display of dead men's bones?
- When did we last intercede on behalf of our bosses, our colleagues at work, or the members of our own families with sorrowful hearts?
- When was the last time we fasted and prayed over our own spiritual plights, the spiritual conditions of our churches, and the spiritual health of our country?

If we don't model spiritual humility born from our own deep experiences with God, if we don't model spiritual brokenness, and if we don't model repentance from our self-centeredness and demand for control, we will never see a Jesus Now Awakening in our own lives or in the life of our nation.



L-5 Living with a passionate longing for purity and to please Him in all things

- When was the last time we sensed God's calling us to repent of anything, especially our separation from the God who made us, loves us, and gave His Son for our eternal souls?
- When was the last time we were consciously willing to submit to His leadership and to willfully turn from sin when He called us to repent?
- When was the last time we called for a solemn assembly to cry out for God to forgive us and our brothers and sisters from our sins of racial prejudice, greed, lust, love of material things, and anything else that stands between us and God?

Have we ever been so humbled that we could hardly absorb the presence of God because we knew we were standing on holy ground? In our roles as leaders, have we ever been bold enough, tenacious enough, and spiritually concerned enough to weep at the altar, asking God to bring a mighty spiritual awakening to our lives and to the lives of those around us?

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). "Have mercy upon me, O God. According to Your lovingkindness, according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin" (Psalm 51:1,2).

Walking in the Light of God's Son... Through Fresh Encounters with Jesus (John 12:35, John 8:12)

Be still before the Lord and offer the same type of prayers that David prayed as he repented of his sin.

Search me, O Lord, for sins that hinder me from hearing You. Free me from all moral filth, evil, malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander. Free me to have a cleansed heart and mind. Speak now, Lord, for I am listening.

Search me, O Lord, for unresolved emotions that keep me from hearing You. Free me from any guilt or condemnation, any anger or bitterness, any fear or anxiety. Free me to live each moment in the present with You.

Search me, O Lord, for childish things that distract me from hearing You. Free me from rationalizing my behavior and blaming others. Free me to practice personal responsibility before You and others.

Search me, O Lord, for areas of self-focus that prevent me from hearing You. Free me from my thoughts, my ways, my ideas, and my goals. May I instead embrace Your thoughts, Your ways, Your ideas, and Your goals. Speak now, Lord, for I am listening.

Wait before the Lord. Listen as He reveals what needs to be put away from your life.

Lord, I sense the need to put away _____ from my life. I ask Your forgiveness for holding onto this.

Remove it from my life so that I can draw closer to You.

IV. Awaken to the Purpose of His Prayer for You

A. The Promise of His Prayers for You

“He always lives to make intercession for them” (Hebrews 7:25).

Imagine heaven. The very atmosphere has a sweet aroma of praise that rises like the cloud that Isaiah saw in his vision. But before the throne is One who looks like the Son of God! Beseeching. His voice is rising and falling with faith, hope and love for His church. And from the mouth of the One risen from the dead, your name is spoken. *You.* Jesus is interceding for *you*.

Pause for a moment and imagine this scene: Jesus is kneeling, quietly bowed in prayer. As you get closer, you can hear Him praying—and He’s praying for you! The Savior of the universe is praying for the burdens of your heart and the needs in your life. We know this is true because Romans 8:34 tells us that, “He is sitting in the place of honor at God’s right hand, pleading for us.” What does it do to your heart to know that while you are praying to Jesus, He is praying for you?

When I imagine Jesus is praying just for me, my heart is filled with...

When I remember that Christ sits next to God and talks to Him about my needs, I feel...

Paul said in Philippians 4:6 to “make your request known to God.”

Is there a wayward child for whom your heart breaks? Is there a soul for which you cry out? Are you asking for a purpose in life? See the Lord, high and lifted up, His scarred hands spread before the Father and His voice filling the celestial air with faith. He carries your petitions before the throne.

- Make your request known, “Jesus, I bring my need, petition, prayer, and request before you now.”
- Begin to thank Him as He takes your petition and presents it before the throne.
- Close your eyes and imagine the scene in Heaven as your Lord delivers your petition before Father God.

There is only one adequate response and that is praise—praise to the One who lives to make intercession for you. Let His kingdom come here on this earth just like it is in heaven.

B. The Purpose of His Prayers for You

“As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world” (John 17:18).

Imagine this most sacred time in the upper room in Jerusalem. The Passover meal is finished. The Servant Christ has washed the feet of each disciple, and the betrayer has departed to complete his betrayal of the Messiah. Christ will soon be arrested, crucified, and buried; three days later He will rise from the dead, but now he prays!

The gospel of John records one of the most intimate prayers of Jesus’ life. The night before Christ’s death, He vulnerably shared with eleven of His

***Are you not one of His disciples?
If not, pause quietly even now
to invite Him into your life:***

***“Lord Jesus, thanks for loving
me, praying for me and desiring
a relationship with me. I need
You to forgive me and change
me as You come into my life to
make me part of Your family.
Thank You for doing so even
now; by faith I receive You as my
Savior and Lord.”***

Jesus Now Awakening
by Tom Phillips



M-1 Imparting the gospel and
one's very life in daily activities, relationships,
vocation, and community

closest friends. Interestingly, it was almost as if Jesus waited for Judas to leave before orchestrating this tender moment. In John 17, we read Jesus' prayer to the Father: "During my time here, I protected them [the disciples] by the power of the name you gave me. I guarded them so that not one was lost, except the one headed for destruction, as the Scriptures foretold" (John 17:12).

Next, the gospel records something amazing! Christ continues to pray for His disciples, but then He prays for you and me!

I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one... (John 17:20).

Isn't it amazing to realize that thousands of years before you were born, Jesus prayed for you?

It's during these final moments together that Christ and His now eleven disciples must complete preparations for His death and for their leadership of the early church. Christ will provide instruction, encouragement, and hope in this "Upper Room Discourse," culminating in His longest recorded prayer (John 13–17). It is during this John 17 prayer that we also see the personal relevance to our lives.

He prays for all believers throughout the centuries until His second return. Verse 20 records that this prayer is not just for these eleven disciples but also "for those who will believe in me through their word." It is the reason He prays though that is so often ignored..."So that the world will recognize that you sent me." We are to be His ambassadors.

"So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, 'Come back to God'" (2 Corinthians 5:20 NLT)!

Walking in the Light of God's People... Through Faithful Engagement of Fellowship (John 12:35, Matthew 5:14)

Pause quietly before the Lord and ask God to bring a name or face to your mind. Ask God to speak to you about someone who needs to encounter a compassionate ambassador. Ask God to show you a person who might need your demonstration of His forgiveness, acceptance, compassion, kindness, or support.

Lord, I sense it is important for me to share Your love with...

Now ask yourself: How am I going to live as Christ's ambassador? And where am I going to get the power to live a life of caring for others?

The power to demonstrate Christ's love will only come through the constraining love of Jesus and His demonstration of love FOR you (2 Corinthians 5:14). The only hope you have of becoming an affective ambassador of Jesus is to experience more and more of the love He has for you, so you'll be equipped to love others.

Pause to pray with a partner or small group. Thank God that He has loved you with an everlasting love that will be the source of giving to others. Ask the Holy Spirit to engage you and empower you as you share Jesus with others.