

## Life on Mission pt 4 Extraordinary Prayer – A life of prayer

**Intro: Stefan Duerksen, Lead Pastor**

**Church-Wide Prayer: Life on Mission** (Mt 28:18-20, Mt 22:37-40): Love, serve & disciple people to Jesus

- For camp staff, volunteers, campers – belonging, safety, fun, to know & love JESUS!
- For Adult campers - by name if you know them.
- For 1000 ppl to engage Life on Mission through actively reaching ONE PERSON “each one, reach one.” Intentional & Available.
- For the people in our mission fields (homes, communities, businesses, schools, parks, etc.) to know Jesus, opportunities to love, serve, minister to them, encourage, etc.
- For SC to be known for truly loving others. That the lost would feel welcomed here.

**WE APPRECIATE YOU! Families in back, RTC, “WELCOME”.**

**INTRO:** when I say... “**Prayer**” – what thoughts come to mind? What do you feel inside?

- **FEELINGS:** Excitement? Dread? Guilt? Wonder? Awe?
- **THOUGHTS:** I don’t pray enough! I can’t wait to pray! Prayer doesn’t work! I don’t know where I’d be without prayer!

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18** Rejoice at all times. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in every circumstance, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

- **How much time do you spend in prayer each day?**
  - 0 minutes – 5-10 min – 30-60 min – 1-3 hours – 3+ hours? Per day.
  - How is this possible? Who has that much time? What would that even look like?

**Dallas Willard said,** *“Don’t seek to develop a prayer life – seek a praying life. a ‘prayer life’ is a segmented time for prayer. You’ll end feeling guilty that you don’t spend enough time in prayer. Eventually you’ll probably feel defeated and give up. A ‘praying life’ is a life that is saturated with prayerfulness – you seek to do all that you do with the Lord.”*

We’ve been talking about Life on Mission – I cannot stress enough the importance of PRAYER being the foundation!

**If we switch our focus from JESUS to MISSION – it will be like driving on the 401 and accidentally merging! We’ll end up at a different destination!**

**PRAYER – is the Foundation for Mission! It is essential to keep our FOCUS ON CHRIST! & it is the doorway into miraculous moves of God!**

**Mission statement:** love God, love people, BE disciplined, MAKE disciples!

**Definition of a disciple of Jesus:** A disciple is an Apprentice of Jesus. They spend time with him, learn from Him & obey Him, to become like Him.

**Definition of Life on Mission:** A life committed to loving & obeying Jesus through prioritizing the Great Command & Commission to love God, love people, be disciplined and make disciples.

**REMEMBER:** EVERYONE in here is currently BEING disciplined & MAKING disciples! The question is – WHO or WHAT are we being disciplined to BECOME? And who/what are we discipling others to become?

### Life on Mission: “Getting Started”

1. **Life on Mission:** are you willing to give your, “yes” to a life on mission? \_\_\_\_\_
2. **Mission Fields:** Where are your current mission fields? \_\_\_\_\_
3. **Prayer:** write down when & where you plan to pray for your mission field each week? \_\_\_\_\_ (E.g. every Wednesday evening from 630-700. Either a prayer walk or drive around my mission field.)
4. **“Each one, reach one”:** Prayerfully ask Jesus to highlight someone you can be intentional to pray for, show love to, serve, encourage, and share Jesus with: \_\_\_\_\_

PRAYER has always been the foundation for EVERY miraculous movement and revival you have heard of!

#### A. The Primary Purpose of Prayer is to KNOW GOD

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18** Rejoice at all times. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in every circumstance, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

**John 17:3** Now this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent.

**Question to Spurgeon** – “*what is more important – prayer? Or, reading the Bible?*”, Spurgeon, “*what is more important, breathing in? or, breathing out?*”

One of the main criticisms I have heard regarding prayer... “PRAYER DOESN’T WORK”

**James 4:1-4** You do not have, because you do not ask. And when you do ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may squander it on your pleasures.

- You ask and do not receive because you ask to satisfy your OWN DESIRES!

**James 4:7-10** Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.

- God desires for us to KNOW HIM – and desires for us to live fruitful lives! He wants to answer our prayers!

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18** Rejoice at all times. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in every circumstance, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

**Matthew 6:7-8** And when you pray, do not babble on like pagans, for they think that by their many words they will be heard. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

- **How can you pray without ceasing AND not start babbling with many words?**

**Quote C.S. Lewis:** “through prayer... we assume the high rank of persons before Him. And He, descending, becomes a Person to us.” in other words. In prayer we look at God and He looks at us!

**Understanding prayers primary purpose to be knowing God helps make sense of the command to pray without ceasing!**

**Quote Mother Teresa:** CBS anchor Dan Rather asked her, “when you pray, what do you say to God?” MT replied, “I don’t say anything. I listen.” The journalist responded, “well, okay. When God speaks to you what does He say?” she responded back, “He doesn’t say anything, He listens.” She then added, “And if you don’t understand this. I can’t explain it to you.”

**Prayers primary purpose is to COMMUNE with God, not just COMMUNICATE with Him!**

COMMUNING together essentially means to DO LIFE TOGETHER. Share all things in COMMON together.

God desires us to COMMUNE with him! And COMMUNICATE with Him! He wants to DO LIFE WITH US! it’s an INVITATION!

**This is PRAYERS primary purpose. To COMMUNE WITH GOD. To KNOW HIM.**

**It is through prayer that we meet face to face with God!** It is through prayer we bear our burdens! Confess our sins! Lay ourselves bare! It is through prayer that we talk to God! And bring our needs to him! It is through prayer that we get wisdom and insight! THEN... it is through prayer that we bring Heaven crashing down onto Earth!

We see bondages broken! Impossible situations resolved! Strength to endure! We see hearts change as our own hearts change!

**You can see why J.I. Packer said,** “*show me someone’s prayer life and I’ll show you how much that person knows God!*” he exclaimed that, “*even a quadriplegic has the greatest purpose upon them as they can spend more time praying!*”

This all might seem overwhelming! Especially if you don’t spend much time praying! There is HOPE!

## **B. Practicing - Extraordinary Prayer – a life of prayer!**

**Extraordinary prayer is EXTRA of the ORDINARY.**

Reflect on where you are at now. This is the **ORDINARY** and add something **EXTRA**. Do that? Voila! You have **EXTRA – of the – ORDINARY PRAYER!**

- **RELATIONSHIP BARRIERS:** Is there unconfessed sin or worldly desires keeping you from communing with God? e.g. addictions, media, living for yourself, bitterness, etc.
- **PRAY:** Confess these to God now! Ask for forgiveness! Ask Him to change your hearts desires! Praise Him for loving you despite your sin!
- **SCRIPTURE:** 1 Jn 1:9, Rom 5:8, Eph 4:22-24, Heb 12:2-3, Jms 4:1-10, Rom 8 (entirety!)
- **ORDINARY: How much time do you spend communing with God each day/week?**
  - 0 days - 1-3 days - 4+ days POWER OF 4
  - 0 min - 5-10 min - 30-60 min - 1-2 hrs - 3+ hrs (goal is constant communion)
  - Where do you commune with God? *e.g. table, walks, couch, work, everywhere, etc.*
- **SCRIPTURE: Jn 17, 1 Thes 5:16-18, 2 Pet 3:18, Prov 8:17, Phil 3:8-17**
- **EXTRA:** What is one step you can take to grow towards a life of prayer? *e.g. add 15 min of prayer, add another day of intentional communing with Jesus, go to Hearing God, Prayer Summits, STAR in bathroom! etc.*

- **PRAY:** Ask God for the desire to pray! Power to pray! Teach you to pray! to MEET YOU WHEN YOU PRAY.
- **SCRIPTURE:** John 14-17 - 14:1, 14:6, 14:12-18, 14:27, 15:4-8, 15:14, 16:7-11, 16:23-24E.g. bathroom, walks, morning, break times, etc.
- **BONUS:** writing out your prayers, is also a great way to manage anxiety!

**Philippians 4:6-7** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

### C. Practicing – Prayer as the Foundation for Mission

**P. Ray**, “Prayer isn’t everything, but everything should proceed from prayer!”

**Francis Chan**, “If your plan for discipling the next generation doesn’t include fasting & prayer? You are wrong. It doesn’t matter how good your plan is! If you’ve missed fasting & prayer you’ve missed the point!”

**Acts 2:42** They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

**Acts 6:4** and will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

**AS IMPORTANT AS MISSION IS. It cannot be done apart from the Word of God & Prayer!**

**Do you want to reach your kids? Your family members? Friends? Community? The nations? PRAY!**

**Prayer as the Foundation for Mission:**

- **JOURNAL: Prayerfully answer:**
  - **Will you commit to Jesus’ Mission?**
  - **Where is your Mission Field?**
  - **Who is someone you can love & disciple?**
- **GO – take action! Prayer walks** – start taking prayer walks in your mission field. E.g. around your school, business, homes, etc. BE INTENTIONAL.
  - **It’s hard for farmers to get a HARVEST if they never set foot on the field!**
  - **When: write out your prayer walk plan.** e.g. once a week, during a break, early AM, late PM, etc. Doesn't have to be long! 15 min! 30 min! just walk & pray!

**IMAGINE – what if all the schools, businesses, neighbourhoods & parks were being covered by Disciples of Jesus who were GOING THERE and PRAYING over those areas and the people there? What would God do???**

- **Walk & Pray for your mission field & the people there!**
  - **Questions:** Common struggles? who are the people there? what do you want God to do? how does he want you to partner with him? spiritual warfare? what are the needs? how do you want God to bless them?

“A few weeks ago, I felt led to pop into superstore... I was in the checkout with 2 items. I started a conversation with the lady in front of me. Shortly, thereafter, she bursts into tears(yikes). She shared

some tough stuff. I asked her if I could pray for her. She agreed. I then asked if I could hug her. She opened her arms ❤️ She then proceeded to tell me she just messaged her friend and that she needed a hug. I was that hug. Her name is \_\_\_\_\_. I pray to meet up with her again! I teach my children that we need to be intentional and available, being Jesus hands and feet wherever we go. Every step we take is ministry in one way or another, even taking out the garbage!!”

Guess what? I know their kids! And their kids are JUST LIKE MOM & DAD! Love Jesus! Kind! Present with people! Love the least of these! I DO – WE DO – YOU DO.

**FINAL SONG – Take us to the harvest!**

**AFTER SERVICE PRAYER – PRAYER ROOM – 9AM and 11AM (NO 11 ASP!)**

**MARANATHA!! Come soon Lord!**

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**SC CHURCH WIDE PRAYER REQUESTS 2024**

**Cruise ship → → → → Battleship**

1. **Life on Mission** (Mt 28:18-20, Mt 22:37-40): Love, serve & disciple people to Jesus
2. **Next Gen** (Ps 78:7-8): Encounters with Jesus, strong mental health, boldness & belonging
3. **Israel & Persecuted Church** (Lk 21:13): Faith, fortitude & wisdom “to not waste the opportunity to share the Gospel”
4. **Heart of Prayer** (Ps 27:4): Every generation to find Jesus & learn to bring their needs to Him in prayer
5. **Church Renewal**: Directors for India and other new countries & many global disciple makers