

Coach House Church BEACONS

ITS GOOD TO TALK

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"Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven..."

"...and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one."
Matthew 6:9-10, 12-13 NLT

So this month at Church we have started a series on Prayer. Like so many people, I've struggled to pray consistently and effectively for years. Even with good intentions, I'd often get distracted or even bored when I prayed. A friend of mine helped convince me it was time for a change. For too long, I had tolerated faithless prayers but knew God wanted more for me, and I wanted to know Him more intimately.

"Hey, Jamie, do you believe God still does miracles?"

"Of course," I said.

"Good—because your prayers are so empty."

..... he was right.

I had no defence as I processed the truth of this observation. I couldn't deny that he voiced a secret I already knew but didn't want to admit: my prayers were pathetic.

Are you stuck like I was?... do you feel stuck in a prayer rut, praying repetitive, predictable, and safe prayers.

We serve a God who can do more than we can ask or imagine. So it's time to stop playing it safe. We weren't created for a life of comfort. We are passionate and powerful, charged with changing the world in radical ways! I believe we should be praying without boundaries, praying to break into situations.. and we need to live boldly.

As the first Lockdown hit back in 2020, I realised I really needed God. With no work, or work I could go and do , I realised I needed God more . I needed to talk to Him.. I needed that conversation. And as I studied the Bible more, I was amazed at the ways people spoken to God. Not only did they pray about things that were incredibly personal—to conceive a child, for instance (1 Sam. 1:27)—but also their prayers were often so practical, for food and provision (Matt. 6:11) and escape from their enemies (Ps. 59:1–2). Sometimes they would gently whisper to a loving God. Other times they yelled at him in agony and frustration.

Their prayers were honest. Desperate. Fiery. Gutsy. Real. And there I was praying that God would keep me safe and bless my latest lunch.

My prayers were rubbish .

Maybe you can relate. It's not that you don't believe in prayer. You do. But you're stuck in a rut. We pray about the same struggles and the same requests. In the same way. At the same time. You probably know you should pray more. And with more passion. More faith. We want to talk to God and to listen to him, to share an intimate conversation like you would with a spouse or best friend. We really want to but we aren't sure how. So our prayers remain safe.

Flat. Dull. Predictable. Stale. Boring.

My wake-up call convinced me that it was time for a change in my prayer life. For too long, I had tolerated lackluster, faithless, and mostly empty

prayers. I knew God wanted more for me, and I wanted to know him more intimately, despite my hesitation about what it would require of me.

And you know what it worked. God saw in me my heart, I wanted to be open to what He had to say and what he wanted me to do. I ended up walking a different way. Constantly trying to see what God wanted to me to see, wanted me to hear. And he used me, I felt alive. He'd guide me to speak to people about Him, to give me the courage to do so. To see the pain in people without them saying anything ...

You see when we're seeking to communicate with God in real, vulnerable, and intimate prayer, he's not wrapping us in a bubble of spiritual safety. Instead he bursts our what's-in-it-for-me bubble and invites us to trust him when we don't know what he will do next. Some days we feel blessed. Other days we face challenges, opposition, and persecution. But every moment of prayer will be filled with his presence.

Are you ready for more? Are you sick of playing it safe? Are you ready to pray daring, faith-filled, God-honoring, life-changing, world-transforming prayers?

If you are, let's start today....

But be warned. There will be bumps. When you start to pray things like "search me, break me, send me," you may experience valleys. Attacks. Trials. Pain. Hardship. Discouragement. Even heartbreak. But there will also be the joy of faith, the marvel of miracles, the relief of surrender, and the pleasure of pleasing God.

It's time to stop praying safe.

It's time to start talking, really talking—and really listening—to God.

It's time for life changing prayers.



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