



Sermon Notes

Date:

Series:

WELCOME TO "CHURCH"

Title:

The Ekklesia Expands Through Prayer

Preacher:

Brian Townsend

Notes

Scriptures to reflect on:

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should." (Ephesians 6:10-20)

1 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. **2** He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. **3** And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.' **4** "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, **5** yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!'" **6** And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. **7** And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? **8** I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:1-8)

Sermon review:

God has chosen prayer, more than anything else, as the primary "weapon" through which He advances His Kingdom on Earth. Preaching is powerless without prayer. Politics is powerless without prayer. Our human ingenuity falls short of accomplishing all that God can and will do through His people who pray. Prayer is the way that God has chosen to partner with us to establish His Kingdom.

Reflection:

Who do you rely on to pray for you? Who are you praying for on a regular basis? Do you think your life could be enhanced if you had a group of friends who were committed to praying for one another? Do you think that the SVCC would benefit if groups of people were committed to prayer? Why or why not?

Would you consider finding a group of 2-5 individuals who would be part of your prayer circle/team/partners? Who are those people?

Conversation Starters

(Spend some time being honest with yourself and take some time this week to share your answers with those in your prayer circle.)

1. What makes it challenging for you to pray and believe that God really does answer your prayers?

2. What God-sized things would you ask God to do if you knew He would give them to you?
For you personally?

For family members?

For friends?

For the city of Las Cruces?

For the nation?

(Now be honest, how much time have you spent this week asking Him for those things?)

Now, let's rephrase the question, "What God-sized things does God want you to trust Him for and believe Him for in prayer?" What Kingdom come on Earth things does He want you to be involved in through prayer? Share your answers with your prayer circle.

One way I could be more like Jesus

One "daily bread" ask (a personal need you have)

One person I know who needs Jesus

Will you commit to 1 hour a week- 5 minutes a day to pray for the list/needs of those in your circle and active listening prayer for the following?

- God, show me where you are at work around me/names of my circle and how we can join you?
- God, show me/us how to best reach out to the person in our life who needs Jesus (pray for those who need Jesus by name.)
- God show us at Sierra Vista where you are at work, make it clear to us how we can join you.
- God please protect the unity of our church, protect the purity of the leadership of the church, give power to us to live as Your ambassadors.
- God, please show up and show off in us and through us so that people see you for the good Father you are. Draw people to yourself through us.