

SYNOPSIS

This message is on *prayer in the life of a Grace Bomber*. Grace Bombing, like other good works that have been prepared in advance for us to walk in, can be carried out in our own strength, but we can be far more powerful when we are connecting to God in prayer, as we join Him on the front edge of the Great Commission. This sermon first details the importance of regular prayer as modeled in the life of Jesus that continually adores God with a thankful heart. This allows us to live from a place of peace, with guarded hearts and minds. After this we unpack the intentional aspects of prayer that aid in our Grace Bombing adventures; namely the requests for: **compassion** for our neighbors, **courage** to carry out the Holy Spirit's promptings, a spiritual **curiosity** from those being Grace Bombed, and the opportunity for a **conversation** about the source of our kindness.

BIG IDEA

Prayer is crucial and helpful when Grace Bombing our neighbors.

KEY TEXTS

Matthew 9:35-38
Matthew 26: 36-41
John 3:1-3
Acts 8: 26-31

SLIDE 2

SLIDE 3

SERMON OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION

Share a personal story about a time when you were going "through the motions," unguided or unreliant upon God for spiritual power and effectiveness through your intentional prayer.

REGULAR PRAYER AS MODELED IN THE LIFE OF JESUS

Jesus regularly talked to His Heavenly Father with a deep connection and intimacy.

Prayer is the language of a relationship with God as Father.

- This ongoing conversation with God infused His entire ministry.
- We see Jesus healing through prayer, teaching about prayer, being strengthened by prayer, and worshiping with prayer.

Jesus opened the door for us to pray like Him.

- We get to talk to God any time, with deep connection and intimacy, as "Dad"
- We have been adopted into the family of God, with the ability to...

...draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16

This access creates great peace and stability in our lives.

The Apostle Paul encourages the church:

SLIDE 4

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. **Philippians 4:4-7***

- Talking to God about everything, interceding and asking for others, all blanketed with gratitude for what has already been accomplished for us - we are urged to make our requests known.

SLIDE 5

An ongoing and regular prayer life is a springboard for more effective Grace Bombing.



THE FOUR HELPFUL PRAYER REQUESTS FOR GRACE BOMBING:

SLIDE 6

Compassion for our neighbors

SLIDES 7-8

*And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." **Matthew 9:35-38***

- Here we see Jesus in his ministry of miracles and teaching. As He turns to the crowds we see His compassion for them like lost sheep without a shepherd. While His instructions to His disciples to pray for laborers is clear, our point in sharing this text is to also pray to have compassion like Jesus has for people.
 - God loves people way more than we do.
 - How do we feel when we look out into the crowds of the world?
 - Let's pray to have a supernatural love like this for others.

SLIDE 9**Courage to carry out the Holy Spirit's promptings**

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray." And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Matthew 26:36-41

SLIDES 10-11

- Here in the garden Jesus teaches us a profound lesson = the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. This means that we can know the right thing, but still have trouble doing the right thing.
 - In the gap between knowing and doing, we turn to God in prayer for strength, and supernatural courage.
- Even Jesus, the Master Bomber, needed to be strengthened in prayer in this way and so do we.

SLIDE 12**Spiritual curiosity from seeing God's love on display.**

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:1-3

SLIDE 13

- Jesus' nighttime meeting with Nicodemus is a familiar one, and we share part of that here to point out Nicodemus' genuine curiosity. Unlike the lawyer of Luke 10, his motives are to really unearth the meaning behind Jesus' signs.
 - This is a curious spirit that we should be praying for, for those who get Grace Bombed.
- Pray that they would be interested or intrigued to take a personal step of inquiry. That could start by them checking out the website or your church, or having a conversation with you!

SLIDE 14**Opportunity for a conversation about the source of our kindness, Christ.**

SLIDES 15-16

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Acts 8:26-31

- Here we see the Ethiopian whose heart was prepared and whose mind was ready to have a conversation about Jesus. We should be praying that our Grace Bombing would lead to conversations about the grace of God.

Here's a picture that might help guide your prayer life when it comes to becoming more powerful and effective in your Grace Bombing adventures.

SLIDE 17

- **Prayer Graphic – stick figures**

Closing Charge: Lead a corporate prayer in these four specific requests for the congregation.