

First WED slide

Plus Business Meeting (*maybe use split screen so all on one slide-?*)

Series graphic ...

Shallow End of pool image

https://c1.staticflickr.com/9/8159/7653750446_87579559f9_b.jpg

{bullets come up one at a time}

What happens when people *really* pray?

- Inner peace
- Better perspective
- Change things ... situations, circumstances ...?

Matthew 6:8b-10 (NASB)

... your Father knows what you need before you ask Him. ⁹“**Pray**, then, in this way: ‘Our Father Who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

¹⁰‘Your **kingdom come**. Your **will be done**, On earth as it is in heaven ...”

Jesus taught that there is a **connection between God’s **rule and renown** and our **prayers**.**

Romans 15:25-29

Right now I am traveling to Jerusalem to **serve the saints**, ²⁶ because Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a **contribution for the poor** among the saints in Jerusalem. ²⁷ Yes, they were pleased, and indeed are indebted to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in their spiritual benefits, then they are obligated to minister to them in material needs. ²⁸ So when I have finished this and **safely delivered the funds** to them, I will **visit you** on the way to Spain. ²⁹ I know that when I come to you, I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.

{come up one at a time; keep formatting; one slide if possible}

Summary of the Situation:

- **Famine → Jerusalem Church**
- **Rift between Jewish & Gentile Christians**
- **Paul has plans (“*serve the saints*”)**
 - **Revealed will of God → planning & acting**
 - **Generous love**

Romans 15:30

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, **through our Lord** Jesus Christ and **through the love of the Spirit**, to **strive** together with me **in prayers** to God on my behalf.

Paul asks for **intercessory prayer**. (“*strive ... with me ... on my behalf*”)

→ WHY?

{one slide for point #1}

1) Intercessory prayer invokes the **authority** of Jesus and therefore, releases His **favor and power**.

- The prayers of the Roman church can affect a situation 1300 miles away!

2) Intercessory prayer is a way of **loving others** deeply and powerfully.

Intercessory prayer is a profound **invitation**.

- a) To leave the endless spiral of “self” ...
- b) To return to our place of **purpose** ...

CREATION → made in the image of God

Genesis 1:27-28 (NLT)

So God created human beings in **His own image**. In the image of God he created them; male and female He created them. ²⁸ Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and **govern** it. **Reign** ...

Psalms 115:1 (NLT)

Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but **to Your name goes all the glory** for Your unfailing love and faithfulness.

Psalms 115:16 (MSG)

The heaven of heavens is for God, but He put us **in charge** of the earth.

FALL (sin + evil) → Deceived, now damaged & dangerous

Genesis 3:23 (MSG)

God expelled them from the Garden of Eden ...

John 12:31 (NLT)

The time for judging this world has come, when **Satan**, the **ruler of this world**, will be cast out.

PROMISE → Hope!!

Isaiah 9:6-7

For a **child** will be born for us, a son will be given to us, and the **government** will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ The **dominion** will be vast ...

JESUS → His reign is here, now, and forever!

Matthew 28:16

Jesus came near and said to them, "All **authority** has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

John 16:23-24 (MSG)

"This is what I want you to do: **Ask** the Father for whatever is in keeping with the things I've **revealed** to you. **Ask in My Name**, according to **My will**, and He'll most certainly give it to you. Your joy will be a river overflowing its banks!

Under God, the prayers of His people run the world.

- **God has chosen to make prayer indispensable!**

Our great hope in prayer is not to change what God has planned, but to bring about what He has planned.

The blessing & dignity of participation & partnership → significance!

What happens when people *really* pray?

Romans 15:31-32

Pray that I may be **rescued** from the unbelievers in Judea, that my ministry to Jerusalem may be **acceptable** to the saints, ³² and that, **by God's will**, I may **come to you** with **joy** and be **refreshed** together with you. May the God of peace **be with** all of you. Amen.

Paul's Belief About Intercessory Prayer:

- **God can remove obstacles so that His love can be known & His will be done**
 - **On the ground: Elders; Roman commander; Paul's nephew ...**
 - **In the "air": prayers of the Roman church!**

If God gave you everything you prayed for last week, what would happen???

{come up one at a time; one slide}

5 Steps:

- 1) Get **INFORMED**
- 2) Get **INSPIRED**
- 3) Get **INDIGNANT**
- 4) Get **IN SYNC**
- 5) Get **GOING**

Luke 2:36-38 (JB Ph)

There was also present, Anna ... who was a prophetess. She was a very old woman, having had seven years' married life and was now a widow of eighty-four. She spent her whole life in the Temple and worshipped God night and day with **fastings and prayers**. She came up at this very moment, praised God and spoke about Jesus to all those in Jerusalem who were expecting redemption.

{first sentence up; then the 3 arrows come up together}

God's will will be done whether we pray or not, but His will will not be done without prayer.

- Made to rule
- Saved from sin to rule with Jesus Christ
- Will we pray??