

Praying For Others

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Pray Like Jesus - NK | September 13, 2026 | Luke 2:52; John 17

Prepared from the spoken message and lightly edited for readability. Scripture quotations and spoken phrasing are preserved as delivered.

So, like most parents, Chelsea and I pray often over our kids. We pray Scripture over them. We pray about the specific issues of their lives now, and we pray about the issues of their lives in the future. A lot of times, we'll land on Luke 2:52 as a prayer over them. It says this:

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

— Luke 2:52

We've been praying that for them since they were babies, that they would increase in wisdom and stature and that they'd gain favor with God and man. But that's not the only thing we pray for. We pray all kinds of things over them, and we did when they were little too.

Sometimes when they were little, they didn't really understand what we were trying to say. One time specifically, Chelsea was praying over one of our sons, and it was like the Lord just impressed on her to pray for boldness in his heart and spirit as he grew up. So she's praying boldness over him. We still pray for boldness over him. But she's praying and just sort of going over and over, talking about boldness that's going to make him stand out, boldness that's going to make him different, boldness that's going to make him used by God for the kingdom of God.

So she's praying for boldness. The prayer finishes, and my son looks up at her. He's upset, and she can visibly see he's upset about the prayer. So she's like, "What's up, buddy? What's going on?"

He's like, "Why would you pray that for me?"

She's like, "Well, I felt like God told me to."

He's like, "Well, I don't want you to pray that for me. Don't pray that for me anymore. Why would you pray that I'd be like my uncle?"

Chelsea was so confused until he finally blurted out, "Mom, I love my hair. I don't want to be bald."

She thought he was saying bald, not bold. They got it cleared up, and he's okay with the whole bold thing. So we continue to pray over him that he'd be bold.

We pray for all our kids. Often, we pray for them throughout the day. That should be our pattern, right? Not the baldness, but lifting other people up in prayer.

Today, we're going to continue our series, Pray Like Jesus, and we're going to focus on praying for other

people. It's an important aspect of our prayer life. It's one that Jesus taught, and it's one that Jesus modeled. This morning, we're going to see that the content of those prayers is key.

I want you to know that I've been praying for you this week leading up to this morning as we look at the Word of God together and at how Jesus prays for others. I've been praying that we all, as a church family, would follow His lead and His model.

Here's what that means. It means that some of us in here today will leave this morning and begin praying for other people. Maybe it's not a pattern of your life right now. You're going to hear and see what Jesus is doing in His life, and you're going to know, "Okay, I need to be doing this as well." You're going to respond to the Word of God in obedience by beginning to pray for other people.

Some of you might already be praying for those in your life. I'm praying that, if you need to, you would refocus the content of your prayer for them based on what we see in the life of Jesus. Our goal is to pray for others like Jesus.

We're going to see that in John 17. If you've got your Bible, open with me to John 17. As you're turning, let me give you a quick recap of where we've been these last several weeks.

Week one, we talked about when to pray. We know that we pray before anything else. Our phrase has been, "We pray before the day begins." Let's just start there. God will do an incredible thing in our hearts and in our lives if we start the day with prayer.

Weeks two and three, we looked at how to pray. We looked at the Lord's Prayer, and we saw that we approach Him as our heavenly Father. We've got this intimate relationship with Him. We go arms up in worship before hands out in request.

We talked about a seven-minute challenge: seven minutes a day, seven days per week, praying the pattern of the Lord's Prayer as we begin our day. I hope and pray many of you have been doing that. I just want to encourage you, if you're not doing that, let God take over your prayer life and get your day started like that.

Last week, we began to explore specific moments in life when we pray. We saw that Jesus did not just pray in times of distress, need, trouble, or emergency. We saw Jesus praying from joy last week, and we learned that we can pray in these moments of joy.

We can pray when we think about our salvation and what God has done. We can pray with joy when we see good things happening around us, good ministry, and the kingdom of God advancing. We can pray with joy as we read and know the Bible, because we didn't do that. God did that as He revealed His truth to us. We can pray with joy in those seasons.

This morning, our main idea is: Pray for others. We're going to see that we should be praying for others, and we're going to see it from John 17.

If you look in your Bible at John 16, and then you look at John 18 and 19, just sort of right around John 17, you're going to see that this is a massive moment in the life of Jesus. He's getting closer and closer to the

cross. In fact, shortly after this prayer, Jesus is going to be betrayed. He's going to be arrested. He knew it was coming, and even knowing it was coming, He chose to spend the last bit of time He had left in prayer for other people.

Knowing the timeline should highlight to all of us the importance of praying for others.

One more thing: There's a ton of theology in John 17. I'm going to say that up front. We could spend the next six weeks unpacking Jesus' prayer in John 17 and still have some more work left to do. I'm telling you right now, I understand that we're going to miss some things and not be able to dive all the way down into everything. Just know that our focus this morning is the content of Jesus' prayer for others.

Jesus Prayed for Himself

Look with me, starting in verse 1:

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.

And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.

And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed."

— John 17:1-5

He's still addressing the Lord the same way: "Father." Then He says, "The hour has come," meaning the cross is right before Him.

Our first point from the text is really clear: Jesus prayed for Himself and for God to get the glory. That's how Jesus opens this prayer.

I want to point specifically to verse 3. He defines eternal life as knowing God. Eternal life is not earned. It's not deserved. It's not something that we work for. Eternal life is a relationship with our heavenly Father, and that comes as we know Jesus. We can't miss that. Eternal life is knowing God, and it comes through Jesus.

Jesus Prayed for Others

After He prays for Himself and His glory, He moves on to pray for others. Look at point number two: Jesus prayed for others.

I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world.

Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.

Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you.

For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.

I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours.

All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them.

And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you.

Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.

While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me.

I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

— John 17:6-12

It's important to note here that Jesus is praying for believers. He's praying for His disciples and His followers.

Faithfulness

What does He pray for believers? Look at verse 11. In verse 11, Jesus prays that God would keep them.

Now, we don't talk like that. That's not a phrase that I use in day-to-day life, and probably not you either. Just know that when Jesus is praying for God to keep His disciples, He's praying for their faithfulness.

Point one of Jesus' prayer is this: Jesus prayed for the faithfulness of others.

"Keep them." Jesus is saying, "Keep them in loyalty to You." He's saying, "Keep them in full adherence to Your character and Your Word." He's asking God to keep His followers firm in the faith they have in what Jesus has already spoken to them.

You see it in the prayer. Up until now, Jesus has been with them. Jesus has been the voice. He's been the one who's taught them. When they've had questions or doubts or worries or concerns, He's been there to answer them and to keep them faithful.

Now He knows He's going to the cross, and He is asking God to keep them, to help them remain faithful to the truth they've already learned from Jesus.

So often, faithfulness, when it's boiled down to its most simple definition, is obedience. Jesus is praying, "God, keep them in Your name. God, keep them walking in the truth that You've given them. God, help them to be obedient. Help them to be faithful day in and day out as they walk with You."

Just like Jesus prayed for the faithfulness of His disciples and believers, we should too. The pattern of our sermon this morning is going to be very easy to follow. I'm going to say, "This is what Jesus prayed," and in response, "This is what we should do."

Jesus prayed for the faithfulness of others, so our first application point is this: We should be praying for the faithfulness of other people.

Think about those whom God has in your life, and begin to pray that they would be kept by the name of Jesus, that they would be faithful to the truth God has revealed to them in every aspect of their lives. I want to encourage you to get specific in your prayer life over this.

Here's what that could look like. You go before the Lord and say, "Heavenly Father, I know what You've taught me in Your Word. God, I know that You've taught me that above all else, I am to love You with my heart, soul, and strength. The second most important thing You tell me to do is to love my neighbor as myself. So, God, I want to pray for my husband. I want to pray for my wife. God, I want to pray for my kids, that they would be faithful to Your Word and do what You have called them to do. That they'd be faithful day in and day out in their lives as they walk with You. God, let Your truth be what grips their hearts so that they would be faithful to You."

This can apply to so many different things. Chelsea and I pray, "God, help our kids to be faithful to Your Word as they choose their friends. Help them to surround themselves with people who love You and desire to see them walk with You as well."

It can be something we pray in relationships for people we know and people who are in our lives. "God, help them to be faithful in their relationships. God, help them honor You and Your Word above all."

In life choices, we can be praying for people: "God, help them to be faithful. My kids, my parents, my spouse - God, help them to be faithful as they make decisions today. May their heart be to honor You above all else as they go to work and as they go to school. God, help them to be faithful, to use the gifts You've given them, the smarts You've given them, the influence and the opportunity You've given them, to do their best, like Your Word says, working as unto the Lord and not unto man."

You see the pattern, right? "God, keep them. Keep them faithful to You in every aspect of their life."

A lot of times, we'll pray for the faithfulness of a person when they're struggling with their faith, when they're rebelling against the Lord, or when they're walking in contradiction to His Word. We should keep doing that when we see people walking away from the Lord. But that's not the only time we should pray for their faithfulness. We should pray before that even happens: "God, keep them faithfully walking with You."

Joy

What else does Jesus pray? Look at verse 13:

But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves.

— John 17:13

The second thing Jesus prays here is for others to be filled with His joy.

This is not a prayer for happiness. We know what happiness is. Happiness is up and down. It rises and falls based on circumstances. There were a lot of college football fans who were happy, then sad, then happy, then sad, and then happy again at the end of their game - or sad again at the end of their game.

That's not what Jesus is praying for here. He's talking about joy, the kind of joy we talked about last week. It's

the kind of joy that comes from knowing Him. We know that's a joy that holds steady in every season of life.

Look back at His prayer in verse 13. He's praying that believers would have His joy in them. He's praying that we would have His joy, meaning that our hearts and our souls would find satisfaction, contentment, purpose, and peace, all from knowing Him. In our lives, we would look to Him and Him alone for joy. That means we are not looking to the shiny little things of this world ultimately to find that joy.

What a prayer. Jesus cares about our joy. He cares that we would find that soul satisfaction deep down in our hearts, and He prays for it. He prays, asking God to keep our joy focused on Him.

I don't know about you, but I can be distracted. I think all of us can. We have to keep looking to Him and Him alone for our joy.

C.S. Lewis writes about this in **The Weight of Glory**. He said it really well, speaking of people and where they look for their joy: "We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered to us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he can't imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased."

That's in a section of **The Weight of Glory** where he says, "Listen, as people, we have to set our sights so much higher when it comes to joy." We're offered an infinite joy in knowing and walking with Jesus, and Jesus prays that we would find that joy in Him.

What's our application here? It's that we would pray for others to find their joy in Christ.

Get specific in your prayer life: "Heavenly Father, God, help my spouse. Help my kids. Help my coworkers. Help my friends. God, help them to find their joy in You. Give them this deep soul satisfaction that comes from knowing You and walking with You. God, don't let them look to riches, power, success, relationships, or accomplishments for joy. God, let their hearts be filled and satisfied, full of joy in You and You alone."

That's the prayer we're called to pray.

Spiritual Protection

Jesus goes on to say:

I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.

— John 17:14-15

The third thing Jesus prays for believers is spiritual protection. Jesus prays for the spiritual protection of believers.

This can be sort of a tough pill for us to swallow. Jesus says, "Listen, the world has hated them because they're different from the world. They're not of the world." This is real. Sometimes we struggle with it. Whether we'll admit it or say it out loud or not, a lot of us are people pleasers. We want other people to like us. We are

wired for relationships, and we don't like it when there are people who don't like us.

Jesus reminds us that when we trust in Him, we become different. We're made new. Second Corinthians 5 says we are new creations in Christ. John chapter 1 says that when we believe in the name of Jesus, we become children of God. Ephesians uses the language of adoption over and over and over. We are adopted out of this world, and we become sons and daughters of God.

We're made different. Because we're different from the people of this world, we're going to live differently from the people of this world. The things we say, the things we do, our priorities, the way we parent, the way we go to work, the way we manage our finances - we're going to be different. There are a lot of people who don't like different. In fact, people can be hostile toward those who are different.

Earlier this year, Chelsea and I were at a conference together up in Boston. It just happened to be while the Astros were also playing in Boston. We felt like it was meant to be, so we got tickets to the game and went to watch the Astros play at Fenway Park. It was an incredible environment.

I'll just say this: We were very obviously - maybe you could say flagrantly - Astros fans as we walked into that sea of Red Sox fans. We dressed differently. We looked different. We cheered differently. We got loud at different times than everybody else who was there. We were different from the rest of that stadium.

Let me just tell you, they didn't like it. They made it very clear that we were not their favorite people because we lived differently. We weren't going to change because they didn't like it.

As a believer, when you're walking with Christ, you're going to be different. You'll live differently and talk differently. That can be dangerous. It's not always smooth. That's not always easy.

Jesus prays here, asking God to protect His disciples. He knows they're going to face real danger. He knows they're going to be targets of an enemy who wants to see people turn from Jesus. He knows they're going to be targets of an enemy who wants to ensure that more people don't trust Christ, an enemy who, John 10 says, exists to steal, kill, and destroy.

Jesus is asking for spiritual protection over those disciples.

What is our application from that? It's the same thing: We should be praying for the spiritual protection of other people in our lives.

We're praying that God would protect them from attacks from the enemy. We're praying for areas of their lives where they may be tempted, that God would lead them away from temptation and that they would hold fast to the truth of His Word. We're praying that God would protect them from the schemes of the devil that would harm their hearts and their souls.

Get specific. Pray spiritual protection over your kids and grandkids, no matter how old they are. Pray for spiritual protection over your spouse and the things that might tempt them and pull them away from the Word of God. Pray for the spiritual protection of those in your life group class and your friends here at church.

If you teach in kids ministry or student ministry, pray for those kids and their families every week, that God

would protect them, that He would guard their hearts and their lives, and that they'd be able to walk closely with Him.

Pray for the spiritual protection of other people.

Sanctification

Jesus goes on to say:

They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.

And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

— John 17:16-19

If you underline verses, look at verse 17. We're coming back to that:

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

— John 17:17

Jesus prayed for the sanctification of others.

Write that word out: sanctification. It's an important word in the Bible. We don't use it in our day-to-day lives, so let's make sure we have it right.

To sanctify something means to set it aside, to set it apart for a special purpose or a special job. When something is set apart, you don't use it for the everyday tasks of life. It is set apart for a specific role.

In your house, your parents' house, your grandparents' house, or some house you've been in at some point, there's a cabinet with fine china in it, or maybe wedding china. It doesn't come out every day. It doesn't come out on a random Tuesday night when your kids are coming home from baseball practice. You don't use it then. It's set apart for a special purpose.

You use that china on Thanksgiving. You use that china on Christmas. You use that china when the Aggies have a big football game. You set it aside for special moments in life.

Jesus is asking God to set His followers apart. Look at verse 17. I want you to see the progression here. He's asking that they would be sanctified. How does that happen? It happens through the truth of His Word. That phrase is so important: sanctified through the truth of His Word.

As believers know the truth, they know God. Because of the truth God has revealed to them, they're able to be set apart to be used by God for His glory here on this earth.

The disciples He's praying for specifically right now, those who were with Him, had a massive job to do. Jesus is asking that God would set them apart to be used in a special way because they're about to be launched out

by Him to be the first and, at that time, the only witnesses in the world letting a lost and dying world know that life is found through Christ and Christ alone.

So Jesus prays, "God, sanctify them through the truth of Your Word. Set them apart so they can be used to change the world for You."

What do we do with that? We do the same thing. We pray for the sanctification of others in our lives.

Here's what that looks like: "Father, grip my loved ones. Grip my family, my spouse, my kids, maybe my life group teacher or life group class. God, grip those kids I teach in kids ministry. God, grip our students over there in student ministry. God, I'm praying this for those first graders who were up here with their Bibles earlier. God, sanctify them. Let the truth of Your Word transform their hearts and minds in such a way that they are set apart for Your glory, to be used by You in every area they walk into."

Pray that for people. Pray that God would set them apart and use them.

Those dishes, that china - a lot of people have them set apart. A lot of Christmases have come and gone, and they haven't pulled them out. It's in the cabinet. It's set apart for a purpose, but it's never brought out. It's set apart for a purpose, but it just sits there collecting dust.

Let that not be said of us.

I talked to a guy earlier this week, and he's a salesman. He sells pipe fittings and stuff to factories and refineries. He does a lot of it down on the coast, and he's always in and out of these different refineries.

Because he's a salesman, he gets to go into a lot of areas back in those refineries where many people can't go. They have to have clearances, and there are security measures in place, but he's able to go down there.

He was talking to me this week, and he said, "Listen, I'm a great salesman, and I get to go into all of these places and meet all of these people. I know that God has sent me there for a specific reason, and it's not to sell pipe fittings and widgets and gadgets. I'm going to do all of that, but it's to be able to get in there and speak to a group of people who don't have anybody else coming in to tell them about the love of Christ in their lives and the hope they can find in Jesus Christ and in Christ alone."

He realized and understood that he is sanctified and set apart for a special purpose in his life, and he doesn't set that aside as he goes to work. He lives that out every single day.

As you pray for others, pray that God would sanctify the people in your life through the truth of His Word. Pray that as they go to work, as they go to school, and as they live their lives, they would know that God has a job for them to do.

Spiritual Unity

Jesus keeps praying in verse 20 and what follows. I just want to point out a shift here in the prayer.

Up until this point, He's been praying for the disciples who are there with Him. Of course, we can apply this, but now in the prayer, He specifically prays for the future church.

Starting in verse 20 and following, He's praying for you and me. We are part of the future church that Jesus is referring to here.

I want you to put the timeline together again because I think when we know the timeline, we're encouraged by this. This is a big deal. Jesus is about to be arrested. He's about to go to the cross. As He's preparing to go to the cross, who is He thinking about, and who is He praying for?

He's praying for you and me. We're on His mind as He heads to the cross and prays for the future church.

Look at verse 20:

*I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word,
that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you,
that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.
The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one,
I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one,
so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.*
— John 17:20-23

We are those who will believe in Him through the truth of the word of the disciples.

Jesus prayed for the spiritual unity of others, that they may be one, that we'd be unified.

Here's how this works. We're unified spiritually when we step into a relationship with Jesus. That spiritual unity continues as we walk out the truth of His Word. It's as simple as that. It's our relationship with Christ that unifies us, and it's our adherence to His Word that continues to keep us unified. It's His voice we listen to.

Earlier this summer, on one of our trips, we found ourselves whitewater rafting. It was an incredible experience. The kids always love it. It's a lot of fun. You have a group of people in the raft together.

As the raft begins, the guide wants to make sure we're synced up and that we know what we're doing. So he has us begin to paddle, and it was not pretty as we started. Everybody was doing their own thing. It just wasn't working.

The guide realized it wasn't working, and he realized this was a big deal. If we hit the rapids at the wrong angle, at the wrong speed, or in the wrong place, we could flip over. Then he would have to do a bunch of work getting us all gathered back up together.

He wanted us rowing as one, so he just started calling it out: "One, and two, and three." He was telling us what to do, not leaving us up to ourselves. He would tell us what to do, and then we would work together.

We were unified, not when everybody was just doing it as hard as they could on their own. We were unified as we listened to one voice.

That's the church. We are unified when we come together listening to one voice. Not my voice, not James' voice, but the voice of the Lord. One voice holds us all together.

You probably don't realize this. I wish sometimes that you could see this from my view. We've got a lot of different people in here every Sunday morning. It's incredible. We've got engineers, teachers, students, grandparents, retirees, and accountants. We've got people from all over.

Literally, every Sunday morning in here, we have people from North America, South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. We have some people here from New Zealand. It's sort of a gray area whether New Zealand is part of Australia or not, but if New Zealand is part of the continent of Australia, we've got every continent represented here every single Sunday morning except for Antarctica.

Think about that. We have people from all over.

We're all different too. We have different passions, different desires, and different hobbies. There are people in here who like the Aggies, and there are people in here who are wrong. There are people in here who like Mexican food and Chinese food. We're a different group of people. We really are.

We choose - nobody makes us do this - to get together every single week and worship. We choose to love one another. We choose to support one another. We choose to grow with one another. We make that choice.

Why? Why is there so much voluntary diversity here? It doesn't happen anywhere else in the world. Why?

Because we're unified by a shared relationship with Christ. That brings us together. What keeps us together is simply following His Word. Day in and day out, Christ brings us together, and His Word keeps us together.

Here's why it matters, and you see it in the text. Unity in our relationships leads to missional living. As we're unified, we make an impact for the kingdom.

What do we do with that? Our application, keeping the same flow of the sermon here, is that we pray for the spiritual unity of other people. We pray for the spiritual unity of others, that we would be synced up.

Thomas Manton, an author, said this: "Divisions in the church breed atheism in the world."

Think about that. We don't want that. Unity in the church has the opposite effect. It points people to our heavenly Father.

So we pray for unity. Sometimes that prayer is for our own hearts. When we have an issue with someone, we pray that God would work on us and that He would restore the relationship.

Sometimes we know there are people in the church who are living in contradiction to the Word of God, so we pray for them. We pray for spiritual protection, and we pray they'd be unified by adherence to the Word of God, that He would do something in their hearts that only He can do.

That prayer for unity can look different, but the important thing is that we would pray for unity and that God would continue to make us one - not for our sake or our comfort, but ultimately for His glory.

Eternity

Verse 24 says:

*Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am,
to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.*

— John 17:24

There's our last little point here: Jesus prayed for the eternity of others.

He prays that we would be with Him and that we would see His glory. That's going to happen in heaven.

What do we do? We pray for the eternity of others. We pray for people who don't know Christ, that they would hear the truth of Jesus and respond to His Word, that they'd step into a relationship with God.

What does He say all the way back in verse 3?

And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

— John 17:3

We want people to have a relationship with God.

Then we pray for believers' eternity as well, that believers would know and understand that the eternity Jesus speaks of is real. We would understand what Philippians 3 says: We are citizens of heaven.

Eyes up. The days are crazy, and the world is crazy. But as our eyes are up, as we are focused on eternity, we're going to be able to live for the glory of God.

Pray for the Spiritual Needs of Others

There's a lot here. I know that I talk fast. I saw a lot of you writing fast.

Here's the bottom line: Jesus prayed for others, and so should we.

I said it up front. Our application, our takeaway today, is that I really pray some of you would begin to do this. You haven't been doing it. It just hasn't been your pattern. I pray that you learned from what Jesus modeled and taught, and that you'll begin to pray for others on a consistent basis in your life.

Second, I've been praying that some of you would refocus your prayer life to look more like the prayer life of Jesus.

Here's what I mean. Look at what Jesus prayed for: faithfulness, joy, spiritual protection, sanctification, unity, and a focus on eternity. Everything Jesus prays for here is a spiritual need.

You notice that He's not praying for healing here. He's not praying for finances or provision here. He's not praying for relationship trouble here. It's not wrong to pray for those things. We've covered that in other weeks. In the Lord's Prayer, He says:

Give us this day our daily bread.

— Matthew 6:11

We're called in James to pray for healing. We're called to pray for those physical needs as well. Continue to do that.

But if 99 percent of your prayer life is for physical needs and maybe 1 percent of your prayer life is for spiritual needs, what I'm asking you to do is follow the model Jesus gives here and rebalance that some. Begin to pray for the spiritual realities and spiritual needs of the people in your life: for their ongoing faithfulness, for their joy in Christ, for spiritual protection, for their sanctification, and for everything else we talked about this morning as well.

When we pray, we want to aim to pray like Jesus taught and modeled, not just for the physical, but for the spiritual as well.

Let's pray like Jesus as we pray for others.

Would you bow with me this morning?

As we bow our heads, I want you to practice. Let me give you a minute to do that. Pray for someone or some people in your life. Just lift them up to the Lord this morning.

Maybe you're praying for their faith, their ongoing faithfulness in a specific area of their lives. Kids, parents, spouse, friend - whoever God puts on your heart, pray for them. Pray for their faithfulness, their joy, their spiritual protection, whatever it is. Take a moment to practice that prayer.

There might be some of you in the room for whom praying has been a challenge, because prayer flows from a relationship we have with God. You'd say this morning, "You know what? That's the part that's missing for me. I don't have a relationship with God. I've never trusted in Christ. I've been looking at this another way. I've been doing this another way."

But when Jesus said in John 17:3, "This is eternal life, that they know You," maybe you're sitting here this morning thinking, "I don't know Him yet."