

Charles Spurgeon Moment (CSM) – A Charles Spurgeon Prayer that we are not proud of: “We have dared to come into Thy presence not only with cold hearts and wandering thoughts, but with petitions that were born of our own petty lusts and selfish fretfulness. Lord, if Thou shouldst judge us by the purity of our devotions, our best prayers would condemn us to outer darkness. Our tears need washing in the fountain of the Savior’s blood, and our most fervent cries need to be forgiven. We are ashamed of the vanity that crept into our secret chambers, of the unbelief that mocked Thy promises while our lips were moving, and of the hurried words tossed upward while our affections lingered in the dust. Yet, blessed Father, we do not flee from Thee; we flee to Thee. Lord Jesus, take these poor, soiled petitions from our hands. Wash away the self-interest, the anger, the pride, and the impatience that clung to them. Breathe upon them with Thine own sweet incense, and present them before the Father not as we spoke them in our folly, but as Thou wouldst plead them in Thy perfect love. Amen.”

Prayer Prompt by Elevation Church: “Lord, thank You for making us righteous through Jesus. Today, we receive that righteousness and commit to praying with humility by bringing You what’s on our minds. We bring You our emotions, our doubts, our fears, and everything else we might not be proud of, because we believe You can use it all for good. Thank You for hearing our prayers and providing for us, even if it’s not the way we expected. We love You and we’re grateful for You. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

General Church stuff:

- Interested in serving at Elevation Church: See: www.elevationchurch.org
- Please consider joining an eGroup (small group) so you don’t have to walk this walk alone – See www.elevationchurch.org. The “e” stands for empowerment - because getting the instructions from God without having the empowerment to live them out will frustrate you. These groups are our way of putting some very wonderful people in front of you feed you spiritually.
- Stay out of “isolation silos” - you are an easy target for the enemy – and you don’t have the benefit of friends to support you. Embrace the power of numbers.
- Interested in leading an eGroup? See: www.elevationchurch.org
- Don’t over-think it – Invite someone to church – “Who do you know that is close to you that is far from God?”
- What are your Gr8ful eight?
- **Elevation Nights Tour: October 9–18, 2026 — Lubbock (TX), Dallas (TX), Oklahoma City (OK), Houston (TX), then home. Described as a full worship, preaching, prayer, and breakthrough experience. Details: elevationknights.com.**
- **Elevation College launching! See: <https://www.elevationcollege.com/>**
- **Reflect 2026 at Elevation – see <https://www.elevationchurch.org> › reflect - Sep 25, 2025 — 7:00P M ET. Reflect is a time where women across our church join together to deepen our faith and celebrate the goodness of God.**
- **Elevation Worship just released a new instrumental album!**

Elevation Sermon notes – “The Prayers You’re Not Proud Of” by Pastor Steven Furtick on August 30, 2026

Sermon Summary: Angry? Pray. Confused? Pray. Doubting? Pray. Ready to give up? Pray. Because the prayer you're not proud of is better than the one you won't pray. God isn't asking you to clean up your emotions or find the perfect words before you come to Him. Whatever you're carrying, bring it to Him honestly today and pray anyway.

Sermon Highlights

- The prayer that you're not proud of is better than the prayer you won't pray.

- You've got to start where you are to get where God is.
- Righteousness is not something that you did, it's a gift that you receive.
- **The question isn't: Are you holy enough for God to hear you? The question is: Are you humble enough to ask Him? God can turn a mumble into a miracle — pray anyway.**
- We've got to stop just praying about our situation and start praying about our sin that creates the situation...The condition on forgiveness is confession.
- I'm not too proud to tell you that I need prayer.
- Three things you'll learn about Elijah's life. When you pray to God with a humble heart, expect:
- Provision you can't predict - You can expect God to move but you don't get to tell Him how to do it.
- Process that isn't pretty - The process doesn't have to be pretty for the prayer to be powerful.
- Prayers you're not proud of Even when you pray a "give up" prayer, you serve a "get up" God.
- God can use the prayer that you're not proud of.

Scriptures

- James 5:16-18
- Psalm 58:6-8
- Luke 18:9-14
- Romans 8:26
- 1 Kings 17:1-9
- 1 Kings 18:42
- 1 Kings 19:3-6
- Matthew 7:9-11

Sermon Discussion

- "The prayer that you're not proud of is better than the prayer you won't pray."
- **"The question isn't: Are you holy enough for God to hear you? The question is: Are you humble enough to ask Him?" What is one thing that you're going to stop praying and start obeying God about this week?**
- "He's not gonna make IT stop. He's gonna make YOU strong." Share about a time you were ready to give up, but looking back, you are stronger now.
- "You can expect God to move, but you don't get to tell Him how to do it." When have you seen God answer a prayer differently than you expected, and what did that experience teach you about trusting Him?
- "I'm not too proud to tell you that I need prayer." What can make it difficult to ask other people to pray for you, and what helps you feel safe enough to share when you need prayer?

Prayer Prompt by Elevation Church: "Lord, thank You for making us righteous through Jesus. Today, we receive that righteousness and commit to praying with humility by bringing You what's on our minds. We bring You our emotions, our doubts, our fears, and everything else we might not be proud of, because we believe You can use it all for good. Thank You for hearing our prayers and providing for us, even if it's not the way we expected. We love You and we're grateful for You. In Jesus' name, amen."

AI generated sermon recap:

Prayers you're not proud of and God's provision

Aug 30, 2026 • 9:03 AM • 1 hour, 6 minutes

Overview: Worship gathering focused on prayer, gratitude, and hearing God's voice, culminating in a sermon on "the prayers you're not proud of." The pastor announced a bonus Week 7 to his series on hearing God after a member texted about feeling like they were "doing prayer wrong." Core message: God hears humble, honest prayers—even distracted, envious, vindictive, mumbled, or despairing ones—and meets us with unexpected provision and a refining process.

Opening Worship and Context

- Corporate prayer of gratitude and intercession: thanking Jesus for salvation and ongoing intercession; asking God to still storms, calm seas, heal bodies, save children, and do miracles; collective praise to "the man on the middle cross."
- Logistics and welcome: invitation to move overflow attendees into the main room; greeting to global online family (eFam: online family) and appreciation for volunteers (musicians, singers, sound, ushers, children's ministry, small-group leaders).
- Bonus Week announced for the series "I Know That Voice" to address prayer; short prayer led by Graham asking God to speak through the message and produce lasting impact.

Main Texts and Theme

- Primary passage: James 5:16–18 ("The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective") with Elijah as example (prayed to stop rain, then to bring rain).
- Key supporting scriptures: Psalm 58 (imprecatory, "break their teeth"); Luke 18:9–14 (Pharisee and tax collector); Romans 8:26 (Spirit's groans); 1 Kings 17–19 (drought, ravens, widow of Zarephath, broom tree); Matthew 6:33 ("Seek first his kingdom"); Matthew 7:9–11 (good gifts to children).

Why some prayers feel "wrong"

- **Common unflattering prayers: "it's not fair" envy-prayers; distracted prayers (wandering mind to schedules, carts, texts); vindictive "God get them" prayers (illustrated by a harsh online comment about youth worship; linked to Psalm 58's raw language). Core insight: "The prayer you're not proud of is better than the prayer you won't pray." Start where you are to get where God is.**
- Don't swap praying for posting: "It doesn't heal anybody for you to post about me if you haven't prayed for me."
- Righteousness and humility in prayer
- Clarification of "righteous": Not sinless performance (law), but received by faith in Jesus (forgiven status). Condition for forgiveness is confession, not perfection.
- Key question: Not "Are you holy enough?" but "Are you humble enough?" God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.
- Luke 18 parable: God justified the humble tax collector who prayed, "God, have mercy on me, a sinner," not the self-exalting Pharisee.
- Application: Pray even if you're "not living right." If you're not living right, you need God all the more. Pray about situations and the sins that fuel them; stop isolating behind appearance.

Pray anyway—even if it's a mumble

- Romans 8:26 lived: "Mumble" prayers can become miracles. Anecdote of Chandler Moore sending a mumbled song idea; many powerful songs began as mumbles.
- Woman with the issue of blood whispered, "If I could just touch..." God honors small, humble reaches.
- Encouragement across conditions: "Pray anyway"—to the addict, absentee father, the fearful, the discouraged.
- Elijah case study: Three expectations for humble prayer

Expect provision you can't predict

- Drought pronounced (1 Kings 17:1). God directs in drought: "Leave here... Kareth Ravine." Obedience brought supply (ravens with bread and meat; water from the brook). Note: ravens (unclean per Leviticus 11)—God decides the means; don't reject His provision because it's not your preference ("pigeons").
- When the brook dried (result of the very drought he declared), God spoke again: "Go to Zarephath" (Baal's territory; Jezebel's region). A widow would supply him. God positioned Elijah to meet her need later (her son) while meeting his own. Seek first God's kingdom (Matthew 6:33); provision follows obedience.

Expect a process that isn't pretty

- Behind James's tidy summary lies costly obedience and awkward dependence. Elijah's prayer for rain involved the Hebrew birthing posture—head between knees—signifying pain and travail, not polish.
- Waiting often includes repeated "no cloud" moments (six times seeing nothing before the small cloud appeared). Do not compare your struggle to others' polished summaries. Stop slander; deal with your own heart.

Expect to pray prayers you're not proud of

- After the rain returned, Jezebel's threat sent Elijah into despair. Under a broom bush he prayed, "I've had enough, Lord... Take my life" (1 Kings 19:4).
- God's response: not death, but bread and water—"bread by your head"—and rest. He didn't give what Elijah asked; He gave what Elijah needed. Matthew 7: if we give good gifts to our children, "how much more" will the Father give good gifts? Sometimes God gives bread when we ask for a stone.
- Big idea: Even "I give up" prayers reach a "get up" God. God feeds, leads, and lifts rather than abandoning us in exhaustion.

Community, confession, and integrity

- "Confess your sins... pray for each other" (James 5:16) within trusted community, not indiscriminate oversharing. Allow others to help rather than posturing as invulnerable.
- Pray beyond situations to the sins and patterns driving them (e.g., a parent owning anger and disappointment, not just labeling a child).
- Resist slander and summary-judgments; don't judge your path by others' curated praise reports.
- Key refrains and memorable lines
- "The prayer you're not proud of is better than the prayer you won't pray."
- "The question isn't: Are you holy enough? It's: Are you humble enough?"
- "Pray anyway"—even if it's only a mumble.
- "There's bread by your head." When you say "I give up," God says "Get up."

Next steps and actions

- Pray anyway: bring envy, anger, distraction, fear, and despair to God; mumble if you must.
- Humble yourself and confess to God and trusted believers; ask for prayer rather than hiding.
- Obey the last thing God told you; expect unexpected provision (even through "ravens" or a widow in unlikely places).
- Pray about the sin beneath the situation; stop slander and comparison to others' summaries.
- When exhausted and tempted to quit, receive God's "bread by your head," get up, and continue.
- AI generated sermon transcript:

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- **Awesome opening prayer:** “ Let's take a moment and pray together across every location. First of all, we want to say thank you. We want to say it with our own mouth. Thank you for all of the ways that you've blessed our lives. Thank you for another sunrise. Thank you for another breath. I pray that today a spirit of gratitude would flood our hearts. When it does, may fear leave our hearts. As a spirit of gratitude rushes into our hearts right now, God, we pray that all of the things that we've been distracted about would just have to step aside right now because the man on the middle cross deserves all of our attention. We thank you, Jesus, for your blood that was shed for us. We thank you, Jesus, for the price that you paid for us. We thank you, Jesus, for your open arms that welcome us. We thank you that you live as our great high priest, that even now you're making intercession for us. Oh, what a wonderful thing to know that we have perfect prayers being prayed for us right now. Not only the prayers of our grandparents and our parents. but the prayers of our Savior. Thank you, Jesus, for stepping in. Thank you, Jesus, for filling the gap. Thank you for being the one that we can run to and come to. We give you all the glory today. You deserve it. We give you all the praise. You've done amazing things in my life, God, and I praise you for it. You've been closer than a brother. You are a friend that was born for the day of adversity. I thank you for the times you stood up for me. I thank you for the times that you stood up inside of me. I thank you for the times that you told the storm to be still and it obeyed your voice. I come to you today on behalf of this church, on behalf of my brothers and sisters, asking you to still storms. Asking you to calm seas. Asking you to heal bodies Asking you to save kids - Asking you to do a miracle But if you never do another thing I thank you Cause you died for me I thank you - cause you paid the price I thank you - Cause you bowed on the third day And I worship your name.”
- Come on, let's bless the mighty name of Jesus. Bless the mighty name of Jesus. He's worthy to be praised. He's worthy to be worshipped. Jesus be the name. Every hand on the mission. I'm thankful. Thankful to be here worshipping with you today. Thankful for another opportunity to stand behind this pulpit and declare what the Lord says.
- How many want to hear what the Lord says today? I know what people on my Instagram feed are saying. I know what the people on the news are saying. I want to hear what the Lord says. I know what my doubts are saying. I know what my insecurities are saying. I want to hear what the Lord says. I know what guilt says. I know what shame says. I want to hear what the Lord says. We're in a place today where the Lord speaks the stuff.
- Ezekiel said, he said to the dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. And if there's hope for a dry bone, tell your neighbor there's hope for you too. Come on, look at him in the eyes and say there's hope for you too. Clap your hands if you believe God is in this place. Praise the Lord.
- **Opening Prayer #2:** Come on up, Graham, and pray one more time before the people are seated. Y'all give him a hand as he comes. Give this young man a microphone - Let's pray as we get into the Word. Jesus, we just thank you for this day. We thank you that you inhabit the praises of your people. We thank you that you are in this place with us right now. God, we ask that right now, would you just open up our hearts to hear what you wanna speak to us, God. Lord, would you give us ears to hear. And God, we just pray that you would just speak through our pastor and through my dad right now in this moment. God, we pray that none of his words would fall to the ground. And we pray that you would use him in a powerful way. God, we pray that this message would have a ripple effect that goes throughout the entire nation and throughout the entire world, Lord. God, we pray that we would not leave this word here, but we would live it out in our everyday lives. We love you, we thank you, and we exalt you. In your name we pray. Everyone say it. Amen.
- I'm going to take a church vote right now. I finished my series last week. Week six. I know. That voice. How about a bonus week? Would you be interested in a bonus week? All in favor say aye. Aye. All opposed, oh well. Aye. Week seven, y'all be seated. Hey, get seven hops on your way to your seat for seven weeks. Tell them to come to the living room. Thank you, worship team.

- Clap your hands and thank God for all of our musicians, our singers. Come on. All of our sound engineers, all of our ushers, all of our e-kids, volunteers. Come on, aren't you grateful for people who served in the house of the Lord? All our e-group leaders. Praise the Lord.
- Hey, who's excited to be in the room today? Praise the Lord. So as I was saying, I normally don't take church votes, and I normally don't ask people and poll people on what they want to hear me preach about.
- Henry Ford once said that if he had asked people what they wanted, they would have said a faster horse. They wouldn't have known to ask for a car. So I try to ask the Lord what to preach because we don't really know what we need, do we? So I'm running around asking you, what do you need to hear from the Lord? Well, if I knew that, I'd do your job, buddy. You know what I mean? But this week, I thought it was appropriate to just take a week. And before we just move forward into some brand new topic, I asked a few people, what did you want to hear that you didn't get to hear when we were talking about hearing God? And one of my church members sent me this text. I'm gonna read it directly like he wrote it. He said, I was praying on the porch this morning and thought how much I'd love to hear you talk about prayer. We did a series called I Know That Voice and I thought how I'd like to hear what to say back. He said, I was praying on my porch this morning but my prayer felt raw and I didn't feel like I was doing it right. It came from a deep place of gratitude But I felt like I didn't do it right or enough. Like I was leaving something out.
- So I want to preach today about "The Prayers You Are Not Proud of." Have you ever prayed a prayer that you weren't really proud of? We'll talk about it in a minute. Flip over to James chapter 5, verse 16 through 18.
- Now I knew exactly which scripture to use when I thought about preaching the prayer that you're not proud of, or the prayers. We got more than one, don't we? Most of us.
- I mean, I've done workouts that I wasn't proud of before. Haleah said, did you get your workout in? I said, I got it in, but it wasn't anything to brag about. I'm not posting about that one. I've definitely, you know, written songs I wasn't proud of. You know, that's the way that you write a good song, is write a ton of songs that you never show anybody.
- And then one day, hopefully something will show up that's worth showing somebody. So my phone is full of songs that you can't hear, and we will not be singing on a Sunday at Elevation Church, and you ought to praise the Lord for that. Come on, praise the Lord for that.
- But when we talk about the prayers you're not proud of, and what my church member said to me, because I know we all can relate to what he said, I thought of James 5, 16 through 18, where the Bible says, therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. Now, if you went on Facebook, you would think that verse said, the post of a righteous person is powerful and effective, but it doesn't heal anybody. for you to post about me if you haven't prayed for me. I'm throwing that in for free. This is a bonus week. Everything is cherries and gravy. It just doesn't really go together.
- Let's go to verse 17. He gives an example. He says, Elijah. Remember we preached about Elijah in the cave a few weeks ago? And the echo, echo, echo. Jezebel's voice that drove him into isolation. He said, Elijah was a human being, even as we are. That's like you went to play basketball and it's like, LeBron is a man just like you are. It's like, yeah, but he's a much better person at this particular thing.
- So he's talking about prayer and it escalates quickly. He's like, you know, pray for each other like Elijah, the greatest prophet who ever lived. And watch what Elijah did when he prayed. He was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain. And it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again, he prayed and the heavens gave rain and the earth produced its crops. So he prayed that it wouldn't rain and it didn't rain. And then he prayed that it would rain and it did rain.
- Don't your neighbors say you must be praying wrong. I think we're doing it wrong. That's what he said. He said, I prayed on my porch and I felt gratitude, but it felt wrong. It felt like I was doing something wrong. And sometimes I know I'm praying wrong. I mean, sometimes in the middle of my prayer, I have to laugh at myself how ridiculous. And I can usually tell that I'm not going to be proud of this prayer when I'm praying. When I'm praying a, let me see what I could call it. Have you ever prayed a it's not fair prayer? And maybe you don't even call it a prayer. Maybe it's just

somewhere in the realm of thought and like justified jealousy. Like Jesus-oriented jealousy. Like, Jesus, I follow you more than her, and really, she's getting married?

- But okay, Lord. I know you'll send my Boaz, but Lord. And even as you're praying for the thing that you want, you know it's driven by envy. Not necessarily from an internal place. of trust. So I'm not proud of those prayers. Sometimes I'm not proud of my prayers because let's be honest, my prayers can be very, I don't want to say ADD, I just say distracting. How did I end up? I was praying. How was I praying? How was I praying? Now why am I checking the Clemson football schedule? Because I was praying for Dabo. That's why. I'm just distracted. There's nothing to justify. I'm not proud about that. It's just my mind is wandering everywhere, you know? And oh, I'm praying. I'm going to do the Bible verse. I'm going to need to look that up. But there's a text.
- Yeah, I never did order that, did I? How am I over here out of my anointing and into my Amazon cart just that quick? I'm not very proud of that, you know? I did pray a prayer. I prayed one yesterday I'm not proud of. I ended up in the comment section of one of our worship videos with our young people worshipping God, and it was awesome. The kids were jumping around worshipping God. You know how they give you cardiac arrest just watching them.
- You just feel like envying them, like, Lord, you're praying, Lord, do work in my knees, do work in my hips, that I can praise you like this. Restore the years, Lord. And they were jumping around, and then some internet prophet said, was in the comments and they called our kids that were praising God a bunch of clowns jumping around. And I prayed about that.
- I said, Lord, Let me meet this person, username 746, loser head, basement living, you know. Let me meet him, Lord. Not in the church. I want to meet him somewhere that's far away. Come on, you know you pray some prayers. Let me meet him somewhere, Lord, far away from the church. And let him not be bigger than me, Lord. Let me just talk to him for a minute. Just give me five minutes. Just five minutes with him, God. Just five minutes far away from the church. And while I'm talking to him, Lord, I don't even need you to stick around. You can just drop me off.
- You can go visit one of the other preachers. You and Joel Osteen can go hang out for five minutes. And just leave me with this person for five minutes. Give me five people, five men in the church who are saved but barely saved to go with me. I mean, like, just got saved last Saturday. I'm not proud of that, but I prayed that. I call that the God get them prayer.
- I was comforted because I found this psalm over in Psalm 58. Now, we probably shouldn't write a song like this for Tiffany to sing, but show them what I found in Psalm 58. You thought that the psalms were devotionals, but this one sounds like a diss track. One time David prayed, break their teeth in their mouths, oh God. See, you were about to leave when I said I wanted five minutes with an internet critic. I wasn't going to break their teeth.
- I was going to let somebody else do that. But David said, break their teeth out of their mouths. Oh, God, not the front one, just one over there in the back. Tear out the fangs of those lions. Let them vanish like water that flows away when they draw the bow. Let their arrows fall short. This is the one that got my attention. May they be like a slug. You didn't know that was in the Bible. Make him like a slug lord. I don't think anybody could make that sound, Somi. And also I knew, still one child that never sees the sun. Something out the Bible? That's in the Bible.
- So what it showed me was, the prayer that you're not proud of is better than the prayer you won't pray. My church member said, I think I'm doing it wrong. Doing it wrong. You said I'm doing it with a grateful heart. You think there's a wrong way to be grateful to God? If David is smashing mountains, if David is praying to Mike Tyson from 1992, 1992 Mike Tyson, I reckon you can come to God. And the prayer that you're not proud of, the distracted one, the distract one. All of them.
- You got to start where you are and then get where God is. But you got to start where you are to get where God is. You've got to start where you are to get where God is. Oh, great. Just pray like Elijah. Just pray like Elijah, the one who controls the rain. Dude, I can't pay my rent. systems. I can't even pray and get my wife to be nice to me. And you do my weather systems. And then there's verse 16. That one can really trip us up. At least I think it can trip us up.
- He said, therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. This is the part. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. And now you're like, well, I'm out. I'm not that kind

of person righteous I'm I'm I don't have that kind of power and it doesn't produce that kind of result so I'm out so man I mean don't ask me to pray don't don't ask me to pray well this is where we need a little 92nd new testament lesson in what righteousness is see the righteousness that comes from the law is by works you earn it So the righteousness that comes from the law comes from being sinless.

- **But the righteousness that comes by faith in Jesus Christ is not from being sinless, it's from being forgiven. It's not something that you did, it's a gift that you received. So now when we see that the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective, you realize that... The condition on forgiveness is confession. That's it. That's it. That's it. And so God is not answering your prayers or not answering your prayers, hearing your prayers or not hearing your prayers.**
- And I served under a leader one time who taught that God will not hear your prayer if there's sin in your life. I had a good mind, I couldn't afford it at the time, but now that I got some money, I wanna put an investigative, a private investigator on him, because I wanna see how are you so sinless that you could say something like that? So the condition on God hearing my prayer isn't like, man, it's been three weeks since I looked at that on my phone. Man, it's been a month since I drank. Man, I hadn't yelled and blowed up and lost my temper since yesterday when I was reading the comments on the internet for the Elevation Rhythm video. Like, I can pray now, right? Like, must be this holy to ride sign. No, no, no, no.
- Okay. The question isn't, are you holy enough? It's, are you humble enough? I said the question of how to pray and what to bring to God. And I'm not just talking about prayer. I'm talking about the situations that create prayer. our need for prayer. See, sometimes it's not like we're embarrassed about how we pray, we're embarrassed about what we're still having to pray about.
- Because if I was a good parent, I wouldn't have to be praying this for my kid because I would have set a better example. Because if I was a good husband, I wouldn't have to be praying this about my marriage because I probably would have done a better job with my wife. Because come on, have you ever had a situation and you didn't mind praying, but you didn't want to pray about that situation, at least not with anybody else? And so what we do is we all run around like we're these professional prayer warriors. And then we go home and we're professional warriors. And we isolate to the point that we just keep. ruminating on things that we regret, things that we can't resist, and then we call that prayer.
- So I wanna say this, I'm gonna stay right down here for a minute. It's not are you holy enough for God to hear you, it's are you humble enough to ask him to. I can still sense some of you don't believe me. You're like, yeah, but if I'm not living right, I can't pray to God. If you're not living right, you better pray to God. He's the only one who's gonna help you straighten this out and live right. Who else are you going to ask? Who else are you going to run to? Who else are you going to turn to? Jesus shared his story one time. I'll give it to you from Luke 18. Maybe you believe Jesus if you don't believe me. Maybe if you just believe the devil telling you all the time, you know, you don't have the right to praise God or to pray or whatever because you're not righteous. I understand that. But Jesus was righteous. And so since I accepted Jesus, I received his righteousness.
- And Jesus told a story one time in Luke chapter 18, verse 9. You know where I'm going? to some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else. Jesus told this parable. Two men went up to the temple to pray. One a Pharisee, that's the professional prayer, and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed, "God, I thank you that I am not like other people." What a start to a prayer. I thank you. I'm not like other people. It gets worse. Robbers, evildoers, adulterers, Democrats, Republicans. Put whatever you want in there that's not you. That's what he's doing. I get to pray and they don't get to pray. I get to come to God. They don't get to come to God. I get to have a relationship with God. They don't get to have a relationship with God. I get to be a preacher. They don't get to be a preacher. I get to worship. They don't get to worship.
- He said, I thank you that I'm not like robbers. evildoers, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week. I give a tenth of all I get. But the tax collector stood at a distance and he went out on his porch and he started praying and he didn't feel like he was doing it right. But it came from a deep place of gratitude. but he felt like he didn't do it

right or enough. Like he left something out because the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven. He's not proud of his life, but he beat his breast and said, "'God have mercy on me, a sinner.'" So Jesus, which one did it right? I tell you this man, rather than the other, the one who went like this, not the one who went like this. The one who prayed without pointing went home justified before God. For all who exalt themselves will be humble. And those who humble themselves will be exalted. It's not how holy you are. It's how humble you are that determines whether God hears your prayer. You come to God listing all the things that you did for him.

- You come to God giving him all the reasons that he ought to be doing things in your life that he's doing in other people's lives. God resists the proud, but he gives grace to the humble. Do I have anybody in the room who's humble enough that you don't even care what the person on your row thinks about you or the person in your room thinks about you or the person in your dorm thinks about you? But you would just take a few seconds to say today, I need you, God. And I need you to have mercy on me, God. Because I'm not really sure about this, God. Because I can't be confident in my own righteousness. So I plead the blood of Jesus. Hallelujah to the man on the middle cross. The one who owed no debt. The one who was without sin.
- The Lamb of God without blemish. That's the one I'm pointing to. So for all who feel like you can't pray, shouldn't pray, don't know what to pray, pray anyway. Pray anyway. Pray anyway. And if you can't pray out loud about it, just mumble a prayer to God. The other day Chandler sent me through a song idea and it was him mumbling a little idea into a song. Do you know my friend Chandler Moore? We wrote some great songs together, man. Jireh and Wait on You and More Than Able and God I'm Just Grateful and Praise. And we wrote some great songs together. And I played the thing he sent me. And Holly just started laughing. Because I'm listening to it in the bed. And he's going, come into the bed. He's not saying no words. He's just expressing like Romans 8.26 with groans. That the spirit only understands. You ever read that in the Bible? And Holly laughed and she said, I wish people knew how many mumbles turned into the songs that got them through the hardest season of their life. And I'm here to say today that God can turn a mumble into a miracle. And it doesn't take much for God to move. And it doesn't take long for God to do it. And it doesn't take perfection.
- All it takes is prayer. If you will humble yourself under the mighty hand of God. I need somebody who hasn't had much to say lately to give God the best praise you can. And if it's not a shot, it can be a moment. A moment. A moment. One woman had an issue with blood and she started coming to Jesus. And she said to herself, if I could just touch, if I could just touch, if I could just touch, if I could just touch, everybody there would have judged her. But she didn't want them to judge her. So she just mumbled under her breath, if I could just touch. And when she cuts the hem of his garment, seamless heels, I'm saying pray anyway, drug addict. I'm saying pray anyway. Pray anyway, absentee father. Pray anyway. High five your neighbor, say pray for me anyway. Pray for me anyway. Put it in the comments. Pray for me anyway. I know I'm jacked up. Pray for me anyway. I know I've got problems. Pray for me anyway. I know you can talk about me. Pray for me anyway. Reach around and 5, 7, 8, to 5, 6, 7, 8, I don't care. Tell them pray for me anyway.
- Pray about it anyway. I know it looks hopeless. Pray anyway. I know it seems too late. Pray anyway. I know you don't see how it could happen now. Pray anyway. I know the doctor told you the same thing three times. Pray anyway. I know fear got you by the throat. Pray anyway. Open your mouth if it's nothing more than a mumble. How many mumbles has God turned into miracles? Just that prayer you can't pray out loud because you're walking up to him while you're praying. I'm going to go up on him right now. You know, we teach about praying in tongues in church. I do that. But I also pray in mumble. Mumble is when I'm like, Lord, right now, right now. Mumble is, Lord, would you take over my fingers before I get on this keyboard and bring our whole ministry down to the ground? And then so I don't type it. I just use it for my sermon illustration. And we all win. Thank you, Lord. The Lord answered my mumble. I do want to give you a few things that are very practical before we go. And this is my outline. So everything I just said, I don't know what that was, but here we go with point number one. If you look at Elijah's life, it's going to show you three things. One is that... When you pray honestly and humbly to God, okay, look what that scripture said. Confess your sins one to another. That doesn't mean you go out in the parking lot, find the first person you can find

and tell them like, hey, you see my wife right here? Let me tell you, she needs prayer and I need prayer. As a matter of fact, we fought coming in here today. We're going to fight back home. We're sleeping in separate beds. You know, don't just, this is in the context of community. You understand that? And when he talks about sin, he's using Elijah as an example, not because Elijah sinned, but because Elijah struggled. And he says something about Elijah that sounds like an insult. He says he was a human. And ask any man in the room, that's the last thing you want to be called. Think about it. When we compliment a man, what do you say? He's a beast. What else? He's a machine. He's an animal. Anything but a man. That's the last thing we want to be. And I did it.

- There were some times where I never asked Holly to pray for me because I didn't want her to see me as weak. So what I would do is shut her out. And I didn't even know the help that Holly could bring me if I let her in. And I thought I needed to be hero enough. So when you look at Elijah, man, he's got a lot of hero. Remember he called down fire on Mount Carmel? Lord, take this wet wood and burn it up. Cocky too, man. He told him, wet the wood before. They're in a drought. And he said, bring me the water. And pours it on the wood and goes, now do it, God. That's a good way to get killed. used that example. He didn't use the example of the fire where Elijah prayed. He used the example of the rain. Now, what's interesting, verse 17, Elijah's human being, even as we are, he prayed earnestly that it would not rain. And earnestly don't mean loud. Earnestly has nothing to do with the volume of his prayer. It has to do with the sincerity of his prayer. It has to do with the energy of his prayer. He prayed that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.
- Again, he prayed and the heavens gave rain and the earth produced its crops. Now that's so great, but it's a summary. It's a summary. You got to be careful about summaries, whether it's AI or Google or whatever. You know, you put something in Google and it gives you a summary. But don't trust the summary. There's more to what you're searching than the summary. And sometimes you summarize other people. And sometimes you believe the slander that you hear about somebody. And you trust the summary about someone that came from someone else. And you know what that's called? Sin. I am going to do a series and it's going to be the least attended series I've ever done in the church. It's going to be called The Sin of Slander. Stop it, y'all. That's the title of the series. Because all these other sins we love to preach about and we run around in that one. We just slanderholics. And we're asking God to deliver us from anxiety and fear. God, deliver me from slander. See, what we've got to stop doing is stop just praying about our situation and start praying about our sin that creates the situation. But you've got to be humble to do that. That's a humble prayer. That's when you go to your men's group and you be like, man. Not, I need you to pray for my son, he's an idiot. You go in and be like, pray for my son, I'm an idiot. And I was an idiot when I was his age. And so now I'm taking out all my disappointment and frustration on my son, and I need y'all to pray for me because I'm humble enough. I'm not proud to tell you this, but I'm not too proud to tell you that I need prayer. Okay. So, do you want my point, sir? I don't even know what to do anymore.
- If you look at Elijah's life, there are three things that you will learn. I put them up on the board for you. You can write them down and we can talk about them on highlights tomorrow and in e-groups this week. Number one, when you call on God with a humble heart, there are three things you can expect. Number one, expect provision that you can't predict. Put that in the comments, please. Provision you can't predict. Isn't that the truth? When you pray to God about one thing. it not only creates provision that you didn't expect, it creates problems that you didn't expect. And so I've used the example before of a job, you know? Lord, give me this position in the company. Well, the position is gonna come with problems. And so now you've not only prayed about the position, now you gotta pray about the problems that the position opened up to you. Now you're gonna wish you were nicer to your manager because now that you are one, you understand it must have been hard to manage me too. Okay? In the process of prophesying about a drought, Elijah's like, it's not going to rain except in my word until I say so. And you know what's crazy, y'all? The Bible doesn't even say he prayed about it. James does.
- But if you read 1 Kings 17, he just spoke what God told him to speak and it happened. It doesn't say that he prayed that it would stop raining. But he prayed that it wouldn't rain and it didn't rain for three and a half years. a half years. And so now that God has answered his prayer, he has a problem. The drought isn't only for the nation to bring them

back to Yahweh and away from Baal who was said to be the rain God. It put Elijah in a tricky spot too. Because now that God made it stop raining, which is the thing I prayed for, I don't have anything to drink. And if I don't have anything to drink and the land doesn't have anything to drink, then I'm not going to have anything to eat. Now God did what I asked him to do. Have you ever had God do what you asked him to do? And it created a problem that you didn't know you were going to have. God, I want to have influence. God, I want to have inconvenience. You know those are the same prayer, right? Influence is inconvenience. Y'all wish we'd stopped at week six, right? Come on, you told me don't stop on six. Y'all voted for a bonus week.

- **But the good news is, don't just expect the problems. Expect the provision. And expect for God to give you provision. 1 Kings 17 for a minute. So Elijah prophesies a drought. And interestingly enough, I don't know if you like this kind of thing. Interestingly enough, I noticed that there was only one verse in the Bible, 1 Kings 17, 1, about Elijah prophesying a drought.**
- You would think that would get at least a chapter. Nope, one verse. It's not going to rain. It doesn't rain. Verse 2. Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah. And Elijah said, I know that voice. Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah. When? In a drought. By the way, God will direct you in the drought. God will direct you in the drought. If they're laying everybody off in your company, don't lay down and die about it. God will direct you in the drought. If you are broken up with, it is a sign. There's something else that needs your attention right now. Don't go chasing them down, trying to win them back. God will direct you in the drought.
- Who am I preaching to? God will direct you in the drought. So the word of the Lord came to him, verse 2, and said to him, very specifically, leave here, turn eastward, and hide in the Kareth Ravine, east of the Jordan. Now I'm going to show you something really fun. You will drink from the brook. I have directed you. He was food there. Let's talk about this. Did Elijah pray for food? No. He obeyed the Lord. And the Lord gave him food. Seek ye first his kingdom and his righteousness. And all these things will be added to you. If you seek the kingdom, the things get thrown in. If you seek the things, you miss the kingdom. And so Elijah doesn't pray for God to feed him. And you know what? If he had prayed for God to feed him, he wouldn't have prayed for God to do it like this. Look, you will drink from the brook. I have directed the ravens to supply you with food there. And verse five is the important one. It says, so he did what the Lord had told him. He went to the care of the Jordan and stayed there.
- The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening. Hey Lord, Lord, thank you for this encouragement that you are going to feed me in the famine. Oh, I appreciate it so much. God, I'm just grateful for you. I'm just grateful for you. But Lord, it sounded like you said ravens and you and I both know that ravens are forbidden in Leviticus chapter 11, where it says that, you know, the ravens are unclean birds. And so Lord, I appreciate you offering to feed me, but I'm going to need you to do it. some way other than the ravens. See, ravens are unclean birds, and I don't touch unclean birds, and so, Lord, I appreciate the ravens, but I prefer pigeons, Lord. Pigeons are pure, Lord. I would prefer a pigeon, Lord. Would you send a pigeon? And the Lord's like, you don't get to pick whether it's a pigeon or a raven. Oh, I'm on fire now. I'm in the bonus round now, baby. Because God said you can't pray for me to provide your needs and then chase away the ravens that I sent.
- So if I want to send you something that you tend to avoid, are you willing to embrace what I give you, even if it comes through something that you would prefer to avoid? That's what I mean about a provision that you can't predict. You know, we get so busy telling the Lord when we want our kids to be married by and what college we want our kids to go to. And I know I preach about being a parent all the time because you either have one that's on your nerves or you are one. So we all need this, right? And I get it that you want pigeons. And I get it that you want your kid to turn out like this and you see other kids and wouldn't it be nice? But God said you don't get to pick. What I send, you don't get to pick what I use. Now, you can pray that I'll provide for you. You can pray that I'll raise them up. You can pray that it will come, but you do not get to say who it comes through. You do not get to say when it comes by. You don't get to give God a deadline. You don't get to give God a stipulation. You don't get to give God terms and agreements that must apply. He is God, He is Yahweh, He makes it rain. He shuts the sky. He brings the manna. He does the work. He gets the glory. It is God's job. And then after he got settled into the brook and the ravens are

coming, he's like, okay, ravens aren't so bad. Okay, I'm sorry, Lord. You're right. The ravens are good. Look how they do their job. They're very dutiful. They're very punctual. Maybe we could revise Leviticus 11. Maybe they're not so bad. And then verse 6 says, and sometime later the brook dried up.

- Why? Because there was a drought. Why? Because he prayed for it. Now the thing that he prayed for is becoming the problem that he's got to pray about. And now the thing that God led him to has dried up and he's got to go somewhere else. Verse 7, where's God going to send him? Expect. unexpected provision. Sometime later, the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land, and the word of the Lord came to him. See, what never stops happening is God speaking because everything else is a resource. He's the source. So no matter at this time. So, so, so, so, who's this for?
- So no matter, no matter where it moves to. God will always provide for you as you fulfill his purpose. And you don't even have to pray about some stuff if you'll just obey what he gave you to obey. Where Lord came to Elijah again and he said, this is Richard. Go once to Zarephath. Zarephath? You mean between Tyre and Sidon? That's Jezebel's hometown. So the Lord said, I'm going to move you on. I'm going to keep bringing you bread. but I want you to go to Zarephath and I have directed a widow there to supply you with food. So God said, now I'm gonna give you bread in Bale's backyard. So God puts you in a tough place and now you're praying like, God get me out of here. You ever just prayed to God, get me out of here. Prayer. You're not praying one right now. Are you? Don't pray it right now. It's going to happen in a few minutes anyway. wouldn't it be better for you to provide a wealthy benefactor, a woman of means? No, because she's got a son who's going to be sick sometime from now, and I need you positioned in the house to heal him. So I'm going to meet your need through someone whose need you're going to meet later. This is what Elijah did, and I can't even find yet where he prayed about any of it. sometimes obeying his pray remember she said don't use all these fancy words standing in the marketplace always oh my grandfather's great man of God he's a Methodist minister and in the Methodist Church they would write out their prayers and read them from the pulpit so my mom made me a copy of a book of all of his prayers from the church But as beautiful as they are, if he was alive today, I'd be like, can I see your, not your pulpit prayers, but just your pit prayers? Because the ones you said out loud, and they're beautiful and they're real and they're amazing.
- And I treasure them, but, and sometimes it's the pit prayers, ain't it? The ones you're not proud of. that God are you there prayers. Don't look at me like that. I thank you that I am not like this other man. If you never asked God are you there, you never stepped out in faith. That's what Peter said, Lord it is you. Are you there prayers? Have you prayed those? I like those God get them prayers and I like those God are you there prayers. I wrote a book years ago called Sun Stands needed more time to defeat his enemy. How many of you need a little more time to defeat your enemy? How many need a little bit more time to pay these bills off? How many need a little bit more time to work on this? And the Lord made the sun stand still, and that's what the book was about, audacious faith, sun stand still prayers, and I believe in those. He spoke to the sun, oh sun stand still over Gibeon, oh moon over the valley of Ayala. And there's never been a day like it before since the day when the Lord listened to the man.
- Almost as awesome as Elijah's make it rain prayer. But there's other prayers too. And the second thing I want you to expect is a process that isn't pretty. A process that isn't pretty. When you read the summary of Elijah's life from James, it sounds so nice. And he prayed that it wouldn't rain and it didn't rain. but he had to go eat from ravens and widows. You don't get that in the summary. You think God just answered his prayer and he did, but there was provision that you couldn't predict. And that's what you gotta be careful when people share their praise reports around you. It's their summary. It's their summary. Don't judge your struggle by their summary. Because they'll tell you, and all of our kids serve the Lord. Uh-huh. They serve and they swerve. But the swerve don't make the summary. So now you're judging yourself. Well, my kids don't all serve the Lord. It's the summary. And when he says that Elijah prayed that it wouldn't rain and it didn't rain and he prayed that it would rain and it did rain. But look at it. Grandma's preaching about this last week. I pictured you while I was preparing too. He got up here on this stage, y'all. He was preaching to our young people.

- And by the way, you can come to the living room tonight and most Sunday nights, and I'm throwing that in for you because I'm about to make fun of you. He was up here preaching and it was so powerful. He preached fire down from heaven. I can't, I was offended because Holly looked at him afterwards and she's like, that's one of the best sermons I've ever heard. I looked at her like, that's his 20th sermon ever. He gets best ever, it's like hall of fame, it was good. Whatever. I'm proud of him. I'm proud of him. That's a prayer I'm not proud of, right? Oh, man. And he was reading how when Elijah prayed for rain and caused on fire from heaven. And then he goes up on a mountain and he tells his servant to go tell Ahab, go eat and drink. There's a sound of the heavy rain. And look at verse 42. And Graham acted this out. So Ahab went off to eat and drink. But Elijah climbed to the top of Carmel, bent down to the ground, and put his face between his knees. And why I'm going to make fun of Graham is because he preached it great. But the way he did it is the way I always preach. his face between his knees like that. But this is not the way that Elijah prayed.
- It's like... And I'm not correcting you because I preached it the same way before, but I studied it this week, and I found out that some prayers aren't pretty. There is no way for me to do this in front of you and not lose aura. There's no way. But... And that's about all of what I'm going to do in front of you, too, because I don't know what happens next. I don't know how long I can stay that way. I don't know if I can get back up. I don't know. We have to get Graham to come close the message. Maybe his way was better. But regardless of how you look at it, his head is between his knees. What? And I'm not saying you need to pray in that position, but that was the Hebrew birthing position. So when you're praying for something, don't be surprised if there's pain in the prayer. Now see, if you only ever pray about situations, you won't feel any pain, but you won't get any change either. But if you start praying, God work in me. God do a work in me. God, I wanna pray about the drought in me. There can be pain and the process doesn't, no, there you go. some of the pit prayers, the push prayers, the distracted prayers, the distract prayers, the prayer that you're not proud of. See, James gives us two prayers that Elijah prayed.
- He said, pray fervently like Elijah, pray effectually like Elijah, pray with the kind of faith that Elijah prayed with. He was a man just like you. And he mentions two prayers, two prayers. He says, he prayed that it would not rain, it did not rain. He prayed that it would rain and it did rain. There's provision you can't predict. There's a process that isn't pretty with your head between your knees. Sometimes you're praying and you're scribbling things and you're having to lock up the notebook that you wrote the prayers in because these are not pulpit prayers. These are pit prayers and those are okay because the prayer you're not proud of is better than the one that you won't pray. Anyway, there's provision you can't predict. There's a process that isn't pretty. And there are prayers you're not proud of. That's my third point. There are prayers you're not proud of.
- Those are the most important ones for you to pray. Because James gives us two prayers, and he's not lying, but he's summarizing. There was another prayer, Elijah prayed, that James did not hold up as an example to the class. See, he's teaching Christians who are under persecution and who are scattered about. The 12 tribes are scattered about. He's preaching to them about perseverance and prayer. And he's saying, pray for each other, man. Get beside each other. The devil is busy. He's trying to pick off that person. Stop judging them. Stop criticizing everybody who doesn't do it like you. Stop telling everybody else everybody else's business. Come to God and deal with your own business. And pray for your brothers and pray for your sisters like Elijah who prayed that it wouldn't rain and it didn't rain. who prayed that it would rain, and then it did rain. But there is a prayer that James did not mention.
- It's a prayer that Elijah probably wouldn't have been proud of. Because the day after it rained, he prayed that it wouldn't rain, it didn't rain, three and a half years. He prayed that it would rain, and it rained. And the next day, Jezebel sent a messenger to say, I'm going to kill you. And verse 3 shocks us. Because it's not a pulpit prayer. It's a pit prayer. It's a prayer that Elijah would not be proud of, but he prayed it. And it's in verse 3. Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. Make a note. I don't think he was really running for his life. He was running from it. It was too much. It was too hard. Remember a couple weeks ago about it is enough. That's what he said. He said he left his servant. He ran for his life. And he went himself a day's journey into the wilderness. And he came to a broom bush and sat down under it and prayed. He prayed. We didn't see him pray when he went to the brook. We didn't see him pray when he

went to the brook. He just obeyed that. But now he prayed. This is the prayer. This is the prayer. James doesn't include it. The very next day after praying for rain, he prayed that he might die. I've had enough, Lord, he said. Take my life. I'm no better than my ancestors. And the man who prayed a prayer called make it rain. Prayed a prayer called I give up. You ever pray the I give up prayer?

- **Man, I love to tell you about my son's standstill prayers. When I prayed and we went on the loading dock of Matthews and we prayed to God and give us that building and that's our Matthews campus today. I prayed for that. We prayed for that.**
- Put that in James chapter five, 17 and 18. Tell you about the time that I prayed. For God to give me a word and he gave me a word and I spoke into somebody's situation and they started crying. Put that in James 5, 17 and 18. But God don't tell anybody about the time. Don't tell them about the time. When I had to drag myself to the car. When I had to put my hands on the wheel and tell Holly I'm shaking, I can't drive to church tonight, will you drive me? I don't really want that in the book. You can cut off verse 18 right there at the make it rain prayer. But I'm standing here today because I didn't just pray make it rain prayers. I prayed some I give up prayers. And if you're going to be like Elijah, he wasn't a machine. He wasn't a beast. He was a man. He was a human. You are a human. And if you can humble yourself enough just to say, I give up, Lord. God says, I can use the prayer that you're not proud of. I need us to clap our hands and thank God that he hears prayers that we're not proud of. Put all three points on the board. That there is provision that you can't predict. Zigs and zags and swerves as you serve. That there is provision you can't predict. That there is a process that isn't pretty. There's the six times that you go and look and there is no cloud. There's the embarrassment and the humiliation. I'll say it. I'm going to turn it around, baby. I promise. Just give me another month and now it's been three. There's the humiliation of having to check yourself in another time. There's the humiliation of a process that isn't pretty. But if you humble yourself. And pray the prayer you're not proud of. And you can even humble yourself just enough to say, God, I give up. I like to imagine that at the moment Elijah prayed, I give up. I want to die. That maybe an angel moved at that moment.
- Because the angels were used to doing whatever Elijah said. And the angel said, you heard what he said, Lord. I go down there and take him out. And the Lord said, wait, wait, wait, hold on. I'm not done with that one yet. So here's what I want you to do. Even though he said, I give up verse five, even though he slept under a broom tree. Even though he had had enough, all at once an angel touched him and said, get up and eat. He looked around and there by his head was some bread baked over hot coals and a jar of water. And he ate. Confusion of the angels speaking to their host, the one in charge. When he hands him the bread to take to Elijah.
- And the angel says, no, no, no, no. He said, dead, not bread. And the Lord said, this time I'm not going to give him what he asked for. I'm going to give him what he needs. I'm not gonna kill him. He said, take my life. Hey, come here, angels. You get your apron on and you get into the chariot, the DoorDash chariot of heaven and take him some bread. Yeah, but he said, take my life. Yeah, but we're gonna make him lunch. Had you ever had God when you said, I give up, but God said, get up? I hear the word of the Lord today for someone who has been praying the I give up prayer. The good news is that even as you have been praying this, I give up prayer. You have been praying to God. I'm going to say it like this. You serve a get up God. Even when you pray a give up prayer, you serve a get up God. And now I'm going to need 300 people to stand on your feet. If you have been saying to God, I give up. I've had enough. I can't do this. And God is saying, check your head because I am not going to give you an escape. I'm going to give you what you need to make it through this trial.
- Who am I preaching to? God said, I'm not going to take your life. I'm going to feed you and lead you and give you what you need for the next season. And I'm preaching to somebody who's in prison. And I'm preaching to somebody who's in college. And I'm preaching to a single mom. And I'm preaching to a lost child. And you've been saying, I give up. And God says, get up. There's bread by your head. You prayed, I give up. And God said, get up. Because there was a time when I was hurting so badly in ministry that all I could pray was, God, make it stop. Have you ever prayed to make it stop prayer? And the Lord spoke back to me in my heart. And I know that voice. He said, I can make the pain stop. But if I make the pain stop, the purpose will stop with it. So listen to me, listen to me. He showed me this. I'm

not going to stop. Such three people say there's bread by your head. There's bread by your head. There's bread by your head. Come on, Elijah. There's bread by your head. There is bread by your head. What kind of God is this? A God who you will pray, take me out. And God says, I'm not going to take you out. I'm going to raise you up. I'm going to feed you what you need in this season. I'm not done with you yet. I'm not done with you yet. I am in need of you. Jesus said one time in Matthew 7, which one of you, having your own child, if your son asks for bread will give him a stone? Verse 10. Or if your child were to ask you for fish will give him a snake? Verse 11. Please, if you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, How much more will your Father in Heaven give good gifts? Good gifts. Good gifts. Baked bread over hot coals in a land of famine under a broom tree where you tried to die. But God said not dead. Bread instead. Bread instead. Purpose instead. Future instead. And I saw that God is so good that not only will he not give you a stone when you ask for bread, he'll give you bread when you ask for a stone. There's bread by your head. There's bread by your head. You pray that make it stop prayer. And I know there's some things you're not proud of. And I know there's some mistakes that you can't move past. And I know you might have been praying not that I would die, but God, I give up. And God says, just about the time you're giving up, you find out I'm the God of getting up. So I declare this day a getting up day.

Six mindsets from 2024:

- **I'm not stuck unless I stop**
- **Christ is in me**
- **I am enough**
- **With God there's always a way, and by faith I will find it.**
- **God is not against me, but He's in it with me, working through me, fighting for me.**
- **My joy is my job.**
- **God has given me everything I need for the season I'm in.**

Audacity is Biblical Theology - See Sun Stand Still By Pastor Stevn Furtick- See pages 7, 19, and 20

Sun Stand Still by Pastor Steven Furtick:

Chapter 20 – In the Middle of the Move to God:

“Your uniqueness is going to be leveraged for Kingdom purposes. Your small beginnings will have a seismic impact for God's glory. And even your most challenging crisis or painful failure is an opportunity for God's glory to shine in your life. But inspiration alone won't propel you through the process of activating your faith.

What you need is an impartation, if you'll permit me to use a old preacher word. You need the words that you have heard and the concepts you've understood to be transferred wholly from me to you. . . . to become a catalyst in your life that gets down deeper than logic and grips you more tightly than emotion. . . and changes your life through the power of God's Spirit.”

Text of the Charles Spurgeon sermon called "The Peculiar sleep of the beloved"

The Peculiar Sleep of the Beloved

By Rev. C. H. Spurgeon

The sermon is titled "The Peculiar Sleep of the Beloved" (Sermon No. 12, preached on Sunday morning, March 4, 1855, at Exeter Hall, Strand). It is based on Psalm 127:2: *"For so He giveth His beloved sleep."*

Opening: The Common Mercy of Physical Sleep

"The sleep of the body is the gift of God. Not a man would close his eyes, did not God put His fingers on his eyelids; did not the Almighty send a soft and balmy influence over his frame which lulled his thoughts into quiescence, making him enter into that blissful state of rest which we call sleep.

It is God who steeps the mind in lethe, and bids us slumber, that our bodies may be refreshed, so that for tomorrow's toil we may rise recruited and strengthened. O my friends, how thankful should we be for sleep! Sleep is the best physician that I know of. Sleep hath healed more pains of wearied bones than the most eminent physicians upon earth. It is the best medicine; the choicest thing of all the names which are written in all the lists of pharmacy. There is nothing like to sleep!

What a mercy it is that it belongs alike to all! God does not make sleep the boon of the rich man, nor give it merely to the noble, but He bestows it upon all. Yea, the sleep of the labouring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much. While luxurious effeminacy tosses from side to side upon a bed of down, the hard-working labourer throws himself upon his hard couch and sleeps; and waking, thanks God that he has been refreshed."

The Four Dimensions of the "Sleep of the Beloved"

Spurgeon explains that beyond natural bodily rest, there are four special senses in which God grants deep, peaceful sleep to His people:

1. A Quiet Conscience

A quiet conscience is the sweetest music that can lull the soul to sleep. The demon of restlessness does not come to that man's bed who has a quiet conscience—a conscience washed in the blood of Jesus Christ, right with God, and at peace with all mankind. When the Christian lays his head upon his pillow, he can say:

*With the world, myself, and Thee,
I, ere I sleep, at peace shall be.'*

He knows his sins are blotted out; he knows his debt is paid; he knows his soul is accepted in the Beloved. He rests in perfect peace."

2. Contentment and Freedom from Anxious Care

"The beloved of the Lord sleep the sleep of contentment. The worldling rises early, sits up late, and eats the bread of sorrows, fretting over his investments, his barns, and his worldly prospects. But the believer leaves tomorrow with God. He knows that his Heavenly Father feeds the ravens and clothes the lilies of the field.

What may be my future lot,

*High or low concerns me not;
This doth set my heart at rest,
What my God appoints is best.'*

He casts all his care upon the Lord, for He careth for him. Thus, God giveth His beloved sleep in the midst of life's heaviest storms."

3. Confidence in God's Sovereign Protection

"The child of God sleeps securely under the shadow of the Almighty. He knows that the Keeper of Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps. Whether sickness comes, or danger threatens, or the midnight alarm sounds, he is safe in the everlasting arms.

*He that hath made his refuge God,
Shall find a most secure abode;
Shall walk all day beneath His shade,
And there at night shall rest his head.'*

The Christian can lie down in peace and sleep, for the Lord alone maketh him dwell in safety."

4. The Peaceful Slumber of Death

"Lastly, there is the sleep of the grave—the last, sweet sleep that God gives to His beloved when life's race is done. To the Christian, death is not destruction, nor a dark leap into nothingness; it is called falling asleep in Jesus.

The body is merely laid to rest in its earthly bed, awaiting the glorious morning of the resurrection. The soul enters into everlasting rest, while the weary body sleeps until the trumpet shall sound. Blessed sleep! Where no pain can enter, no sorrow can vex, and no tears can flow. *'So He giveth His beloved sleep.'*"