

BEYOND SUNDAY

A SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

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Missed the sermon? Watch [here](#).

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This guide is designed to offer a simple tool for those wanting to take the next step with Sunday's message. You can print this guide to study on your own, or use it in a group and experience transformation together.

MESSAGE THEME & PRAYER FOCUS

PRAYER: A MATTER OF AUTHORITY

'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven'.

"God, I desire your will above my own. Would you come and have your way in my family, in my home, at my job, and in my heart. Amen."

KEY TRUTHS

Prayer is powerful. It shouldn't be a chore, a burden, or something to check off of a checklist. It's an opportunity to connect with the Father on a personal level.

Why is it that most people don't pray? It could be because they are believing any number of myths about prayer. One of the myths being that prayer is an empty obligation. Many people pray only because they feel like they are supposed to, or that it's part of what's expected of them as a christian. Just because God desires something, doesn't mean it's going to happen. God's will isn't automatic, it works alongside our free will. God has plans for us but lets us come to him when we are ready.

Another myth about prayer is that we have to pray so God knows what we need. God already knows what we need before we ask him (Matthew 6:8). Prayer is more than a list of wants and desires, it's time set aside to spend with our father.

Genesis 1: 26 & 28 tells us that God placed us in charge over the Earth. We are taking care of what is God's but he has given us free will over it. In the game of chess there are rules that we all play by. God has rules that he plays by as well. Once he gave us authority and free will, he respects our decisions and space. Our God does not overstep, when we want God to come have his way, we have to extend the invite, 'God, in the places where you have given me authority, I am inviting you to work.'

God's power is not in question. Every time God does something on earth he does it in partnership with humans. In the stories we have of God working wonders and moving through humans, this is true: before God moved, they prayed. Prayer isn't about convincing God to do something, but it is a matter of authority. We get to partner with the God of the universe to see his will done here on earth and we get to invite him in to have control in our lives.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

This week, take some time to engage in prayer in a way that you haven't before. That could be getting to a quiet place, dancing with the Lord, going for a walk, painting while talking to God, or even cleaning the house while praying blessings over each family member. God desires our time spent with him far more than a list of requests. He cherishes connection.

VERSES

- 1 Timothy 2:3-4
- Matthew 6:8-10
- Genesis 1:26 & 28
- 2 Peter 3:9
- 2 Chronicles 20:3-4
- Exodus 14:19-31

DECLARATIONS

"God, use me.

God, I invite you into my family, I invite you to do a work inside of their character and mine. I invite you into my job, decisions, dreams, and goals.

Where you have given me authority, I want you to be present and working. I give you permission to move and work in the places that I hold closest to me."

WHAT'S NEXT?

Now it's time to write down anything the Lord has spoken to you. Praise Him, Thank Him and ask the Holy Spirit to help you walk this out.



*If hearing God or anything mentioned in this study is new to you then we invite you to take the Next Step.
Further information can be found at reslife.org/nextsteps*