



## Sermon Series Praying Our Way to Pentecost

Mobilize : Knees

Have you ever noticed when someone asks you a question, their question reveals something about their heart?

Questions are a window into the heart. They can be a roadmap to our deepest longings.

It's like having a front row seat into the soul.

When you take time to hear the questions people are asking, you begin to understand what people really desire.

And if you want to be entertained then listen to questions from a four-year-old.

You all know by now that I am really enjoying having our grandson Ryan living in the area.

I get to see him almost every day and boy does he know how to ask questions.

But one of the things I've noticed is that many of his questions are loaded!

What I mean is when he is asking me a question, he is not simply wanting an answer, he is wanting to get something else out of it as well.

Ryan will ask, "Pop, would you like some peanuts?"

What Ryan is really saying with his question, is "I want some peanuts and when you get them, then I can have them too."

When Ryan asks, “What kind of cake do you want pop?”

The motive behind the question is, “I would love some cake and if I can get you to name it, then maybe I can claim it!”

Ryan also negotiates with his questions.

For example, he will ask, “How about I only take two bites of green beans then I can have dessert?”

In other words, I don’t like the instructions you have given, so I have a better plan.

My personal favorite is, “Pop you want to play a game?”

I say, “Sure, how about we play the matching game,” and he will say, “actually I was thinking we could play Paw Patrol!”

His questions are loaded with his own desires!

This is not only true with four-year-old’s it is also true with us.

We reveal what we really desire with the requests we make.

It was also true with the disciples that followed Jesus.

Rewind with me about 2,000 years ago to a time when Jesus was with His disciples, and they asked Him questions.

I’m sure Jesus could sense the desire behind the questions His disciples asked.

After all, each of the disciples were following Him because they wanted to be a part of a movement.

They’d heard stories their entire life of the Messiah who would arrive and become the redeemer of Israel.

This Messiah would relieve their oppression and lead their people.

This prophesied messiah would birth a new movement of God in their world and set them free from Roman occupation.

And when Jesus arrived, they followed Him because they all suspected He was the one the prophets pointed too.

So, they followed Him, expecting to have a front row seat to a new movement of God.

The former fisherman, Peter, never forgot the night when Jesus showed up at his fishing business after a long night of fishing with no results.

Then Jesus says “push out your boats, give it one more try,” and when they do.....Boom! The biggest catch they had ever seen!

That sure explains why Peter dropped his nets and followed this guy! You probably would too!

Or how about the tax collector Matthew sitting at his tax booth when Jesus comes to town and heals the town paraplegic.

I mean when you witness that kind of power displayed you kind of want to know more!

Or how about the disciple Nathaniel who Jesus told, I saw you under a tree.

If I had someone tell me they saw me and know what I was saying and thinking even though they were no where near where I was, I would follow too.

These powerful displays required a supernatural ability, I think I would want to be close to this guy as well.

When you see powerful things happen You begin to take note!

Each of the disciples who followed Jesus accepted His invitation because He blew them away.

Jesus blew them away with His fresh perspective and the power that seemed to follow Him wherever He went.

They were longing for a movement and when Jesus arrived, not only did they take note of Him, but crowds followed because they wanted to be a part of it.

They were craving a movement of God that would transform their world.

Is there anyone here today that would love to have a fresh perspective on life?

Is there anyone here that desires to have power to deal with all that life is throwing at you right now?

Is there anyone here today that would love to experience a new movement of God in your life?

Then you can relate to the disciples.

They were following and watching Jesus perform miracles, hearing Him deliver life-changing teaching, seeing Him perform miracles.

They had a front row seat watching Jesus provide life-changing encounters with their family, neighbors, and friends and they wanted to know more.

They wanted in on the source that propelled Jesus!

They wanted the keys to the power they observed, they wanted in on the secrets that led to life change.

And as they watched Jesus, they noticed that he had a source.

Jesus would pray daily to His Father God with an intimacy that they had never seen before.

They had heard the Pharisees pray on the street corners. But when Jesus prayed they could sense an electrifying power.

This vibrant prayer life produced powerful results and all that leads us right back to where we started – with a request that really reveals the heart of the one who asks it.

It is found in Luke chapter 11:

It was simply:

***Luke 11:1 “Lord Teach us how to pray”***

This simple request exposed their deepest hunger.

The disciples noticed that Jesus was no ordinary man.

He had a supernatural way about Him and was ushering in a new movement of God.

It could be that they saw a connection between prayer and power.

And they wanted in on it.

They wanted access to the keys that could unlock the door to a miraculous movement of God in their midst.

They couldn't help but notice that Jesus had a pattern that produced power in His life.

They were eyewitnesses to miracles and lifechanging encounters that caused the crowds to chase Him down.

Yet early on in Luke's account of the life of Jesus, even when people were pressing in for more, the disciples witnessed that . . .

***Luke 5:16 (NIV) <sup>16</sup>. . . Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.***

**Jesus knew the heart of this movement is only found through an encounter with God!**

This is why He positioned Himself in a posture of prayer to keep Himself connected to the only power source that can enable a movement of God's Kingdom.

The disciples could see this, and they wanted in on it. They wanted to connect to the same source that was guiding Jesus.

They wanted access to the same power, presence, and perspective that Jesus possessed.

So, they made their simple but revealing request: Teach us how to pray!

Jesus' response pointed them to the power at the heart of a movement of God!

If you want power, presence, and perspective?

It is only found when you connect with your Father in heaven through prayer.

That is how you access the heart of God;

- When we **Praise** our Father in heaven - "Father, hallowed be your name
- When we ask for His **Presence** in our current situation – "Your kingdom come you will be done."
- When we seek His **Provision** in everyday life- "Give us each day our daily bread."
- When we offer our **Penitent hearts and** repent seeking His reconciliation – "Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us."

- When we seek His **Protection** – “And lead us not into temptation.”

Then we will connect with the heart of God!

This rhythm of prayer practiced in a consistent pattern will unlock a movement of God in your life.

This is not something we can access through knowledge; this isn't a head thing.

We can't figure out a way to make God move.

What we can do is connect to God's heart, and in that sacred space God desires to move.

It is accessed on our knees, through humble submission.

It is a heart thing that shows up in our posture.

You can only access the power of a movement of God when you sit in His presence.

This is at the heart of how God movements are born.

When we seek Him, then He begins to reveal to us His presence.

He points and provides our provision, He forgives us and protects us from our enemies, then positions us through His power to make a difference in our world.

When we are connected to the heart of God, we can become His hands and feet in the world.

Jesus continued to teach the disciples throughout their three-year journey with Him.

These lessons took on a whole new meaning after Jesus' death and resurrection.

Jesus built on their undergraduate study of prayer.

And challenged His disciples to take a graduate class and gather to pray and wait on a gift that He had promised to give them.

This gift would change forever the way God interacts with His people.

This gift would grant them access to the power that drives the movement.

It is the gift of power, presence, and perspective that would birth a movement.

We get to see Jesus' invitation to take this graduate's class in Act 1:4

***Acts 1:4 (NIV) <sup>4</sup> On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.***

Because they had three years of undergraduate work on prayer, they knew that they should obey.

So, they took the leap and built on the lessons Jesus had taught them.

They gathered and prayed.

***Acts 2:1-4 (MSG) <sup>1</sup> When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force—no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. <sup>3</sup> Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, <sup>4</sup> and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them.***

What Jesus had promised came true.

They received the gift, and a movement was born!

They found the heart of the movement of God by humbly submitting to God in prayer!

They found it on their knees!



By the way,

This power can't be purchased – In Acts chapter 8:9-24 we find the story of a man who tried to buy the power of God.

His name was Simon. He was known as Simon the Sorcerer because he dealt in dark magic.

He called on demon powers to perform miracles.

When he saw the power, the disciples had he asked them “hey can I buy this power?”

Peter called him out on the spot!

***Acts 8:20-23 (NIV) <sup>20</sup> ..... "May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! <sup>21</sup>You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. <sup>22</sup>Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. <sup>23</sup>For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin."***

He falsely thought the power of the apostles could be purchased.

We may not think this power can be purchased with money, but we often act like it can be earned through our actions.

We can be tempted to think that because we regularly attend church, give a tithe, serve in a ministry, or perform acts of kindness, that God somehow owes us this spiritual power.

We can spiritualize and polish up the same sin as Simon the Sorcerer, but it will lead to the same result.

Not only can we not purchase it.

**We can't possess it in our own power** – In Acts 19:13-17 we read the story of the seven sons of Sceva.

Sceva was a Jewish chief priest who had seven sons who attempted to name the name of Jesus like a magic name or magic incantation over some demons.

They tried, in their own power, to cast demons out of another individual without a real relationship with Jesus.

God warned us not to take his name in vain.

Using God's name to attempt gaining power or authority over someone rather than submitting to God and allowing His power to be directed through us for his own purposes will always lead to failure.

Jesus is the only way we access the real power of God!

The evil spirits did not retreat. The demons spoke to them and said, "I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul but who are you?"

The result was disastrous!

The evil spirits leaped on them and beat them up as they ran from the house, bleeding and tore up.

You can't make this stuff up! Read it for yourself!

You want to experience the presence that produces real power over evil?

You want to gain perspective on how movements of God are born?

Then remember, Movements of God can only be found through humble submission to God in prayer!

**Movements that matter are born in the heart through an encounter with God**

We only find this in humble submission to God through the pattern of prayer that Jesus taught.

We find that connection on our knees!

Would you like to have the power that can fuel a movement of God in your life?

Then will you bow your knee in humble submission and pray.

I want to invite you all to become a part of a movement. Let's mobilize and begin to pray seeking the heart of God.

In fact, this week I want you to find one other person and begin to pray with them every day.

Use the pattern Jesus taught, spend time seeking the heart of God.

Let's together bow our knees humbly before our God and seek His presence for the power of the Holy Spirit.

Let's pray

Response:

Find a prayer partner

Follow the daily prayer guide

**Remember:** When we seek Him, He begins to reveal to us His presence, He points to our provision, He forgives us and protects us from our enemies, then positions us through His power to make a difference in our world.