

## 20160612 Powerful Prayers Pt3

### Introduction

(Adapted from a series called Dangerous Prayers by Craig Groeschel)

Last part of a three part series on Prayer.

In this series we are we are learning to pray  
significant prayers/other than superficial.

We often use prayer to present to God a laundry  
list of our needs- but prayer is so much more.

The first week we prayed out of Psa 139.23-24 ...

#### **Psalm 139:23–24**

**<sup>23</sup>Search me, O God, and know my heart;**

**Try me and know my anxious thoughts;**

**<sup>24</sup>And see if there be any hurtful way in  
me, And lead me in the everlasting way.**

As David prayed- we need to pray ...

1. Search my heart
2. Reveal my fears
3. Uncover my sins
4. Lead me

Last week we looked at two stories in Mark 14 ...

>the women- poured expensive perfume

>Jesus last meal w/disciples- poured out

Out of these stories we saw that we need to allow  
ourselves to be broken/poured out ...

>as act of worship before God and

>to bring truth about Christ to the world.

We make ourselves- useful vessel in God's hands

### **Send Me**

Today- pray a prayer in which we make ourselves  
available to God for His purposes- send me!

We want to say to God ...

**Here I am God. Anywhere, anytime, I am  
available to you. Send me.**

In this type- prayer we make ourselves available to God w/o reservation/conditions.

As we pray this type of prayer we open- door for God to lead/direct our lives for His purposes.

God may reveal a calling in your life that you never ever expected or considered before.

He might call you to serve somewhere, get a different job, break off a relationship.

Throughout scripture we see- God calls people.

When God calls someone it means He ...

>speaks to people,

>moves their heart in some direction,

>leads them to say/do something,

>leads them to go somewhere,

>leads them to encourage someone.

Apprehensive to pray this-prayer- too open ended

### **Song- by Scott Wesley Brown**

How we respond to God's call is important.

**Aside: We need to be careful not to treat the HS as our servant- do this/that for me- rather than part of the God head**  
**-Jesus has a resurrected body, He does not need a body.**

**-The Father remains on His throne in heaven so He does not need a body.**

**-But, when Jesus was resurrected He sent the HS to live here on earth in our bodies.**

**-So we have the privilege of presenting our bodies to the HS for His use and to be His dwelling place on earth.**

Thinking in terms of what we can do for God rather than what He can do for us.

## **Look at 3 responses to God's call-**

### **1. Here I am, I am not going**

This would be the story of Jonah ...

#### **Jonah 1:1–3**

**<sup>1</sup>The word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai saying,**

**<sup>2</sup>“Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and cry against it, for their wickedness has come up before Me.”**

**<sup>3</sup>But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. So he went down to Joppa, found a ship which was going to Tarshish, paid the fare and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.**

Have we ever responded this way to the Lord?

You feel prompted to ...

>do something or

>say something or

>help a person ... but you ...

... ignore it, put it off, reject it all together?

There are times we feel God is leading us to do something and we think, I need to, I should, but in the end we do not.

This is what Jonah did- Here I am, I am not going.

We do not make ourselves available to the Lord.

### **2. Here I am, send someone else**

This would be- story of Moses- God send Aaron-

Here I am Lord, send my brother.

**Ex 3:10 “Therefore, come now, and I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt.”**

Moses agreed that someone needed to be sent to Pharaoh to get him to set God's people free.

But what did Moses say to God ...

**Ex 3:11 ... "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?"**

Who am I? sounds humble ...

- >I am not good enough,
- >I am not talented enough,
- >someone else would be better than me,
- >God you messed up on this one-
  - Here I am, God. Send someone else.
  - I am not the right person.

We do this in many areas of our lives.

- >I am not going to give, there are others here better off financially who can give
- >I do not have time to serve- I live a busy life- Pastor Gary is retired, let him do it

Here I am God. Send someone else.

Jonah says, "Here I am. I am not going."

Moses says, "Here I am. Send someone else."

### **3. Here I am, send me**

This would be the story of Isaiah.

**Isa 6:8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"**

Now notice what Isaiah did not say ...

- >where are you sending me?
- >is the climate nice?
- >what is the cost of living there?
- >are there benefits?

What did Isaiah do- He signed a blank contract  
with God- here I am, send me ...

God, You fill in the details.

Let me encourage us do daily pray ...

**Lord, I give my whole person to you- my  
mind, my hands, my legs, my eyes, my  
ears, my mouth- I am all Yours.**

God, may I ...

>think what you want me to think

>do what you want me to do

>speak what you want me to speak

Do not be afraid to pray-here I am God, send me-

>God, You have permission to interrupt me

>God, if you want me to go I will go if you  
want me to stay I will stay

>God, if you want me-give money, I will give

>God, if you want me- give-time, I will give it

In other words God, I am your bond-servant- You  
are not my servant, I am your servant.

**How do we surrender our lives to God?**

Look at the verses that lead up to Isa 6.8 ...

**Isaiah 6:1-5**

**<sup>1</sup>In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw  
the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and  
exalted, with the train of His robe filling  
the temple.**

**<sup>2</sup>Seraphim stood above Him, each  
having six wings: with two he covered  
his face, and with two he covered his  
feet, and with two he flew.**

**<sup>3</sup>And one called out to another and said,  
"Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts,  
The whole earth is full of His glory."**

**4And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke.**

**5Then I said, “Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.”**

Out of these verses we see ...

**Three things we need to surrender to God ...**

**1. An experience with the presence of God**

v1- I saw the Lord

Isaiah saw the presence of God.

This is why we talk about encounter, encounter, develop a history with the Living God.

As we experience an encounter with God’s presence it brings us to a place of submission to His will/purposes.

However, we must make room/time to cultivate opportunities for God to interact w/us this way.

The church is authenticated by- presence of God.

**God’s presence never comes for personal entertainment- God is always redemptive in nature and purposeful in what He does. (WHO?)**

God desires to reveal Himself to every person.

**Jam 4:8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.**

What do you need to fully surrender to God?

You need a genuine experience with the presence of God.

## **2. An awareness of our sinfulness**

One of the lies that pervades today's culture is ...

I am a good person and do not need a personal savior.

v5- Isaiah recognizes His sinfulness- how short

He has fallen compared to the holiness of God

We need to compare ourselves to God, not others

Without Christ, no-one is a good person.

**Rom 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,**

When Isaiah saw the goodness of God- in that moment- recognized his own unrighteousness.

Peter ...

**Luke 5:4–8 (NASB95)**

**4When He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch."**

**5Simon answered and said, "Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but I will do as You say and let down the nets."**

**6When they had done this, they enclosed a great quantity of fish, and their nets began to break;**

**7so they signaled to their partners in the other boat for them to come and help them. And they came and filled both of the boats, so that they began to sink.**

**8But when Simon Peter saw that, he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, "Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man!"**

Peter saw- miracle/realized he was in- presence  
of God- worshipped/saw his own sinfulness.

Here I am God. I am yours. Send me.

To pray this it takes experiencing the presence of  
God and being aware of our own sinfulness.

### **3. An understanding of God's grace**

As we fully understand the grace of God it will  
bring us to a place of true surrender.

#### **Isaiah 6:6-7**

**<sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphim flew to me  
with a burning coal in his hand, which he  
had taken from the altar with tongs.**

**<sup>7</sup>He touched my mouth with it and said,  
“Behold, this has touched your lips; and  
your iniquity is taken away and your sin  
is forgiven.”**

We see amazing news at the end of v7 ...your  
iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven.

This is a picture of God's grace- Isaiah did  
nothing to earn this forgiveness/favor.

It was freely bestowed on him by God.

With one touch from the goodness of God, his  
sins were forgiven and completely atoned for.

When we understand God's grace- transforms us.

As- coal touched Isaiah's lips/removed his guilt,  
the blood of Jesus Christ washes away our sin

When we ...

>experience God's presence,

>become aware of our own sinfulness, and

>understand the undeserved grace of God

... our only reasonable response is ...

Here I am God. Send me.

God I am all yours anywhere, anytime, anything.

As we experience this reality we begin to realize that we have the HS living in us and ...

>He has given to us spiritual gifts.

>He put us at this moment in history

>He will bring people across our path ...

-people who need encouragement- I have encouragement from God inside of me

-people that have needs, and he has given me exactly what they need

I get to serve God because He first has loved and served me through Jesus Christ.

## **The Struggle**

We find ourselves in a struggle to make ourselves available to God.

We find ourselves in a spiritual battle both with our flesh and with a spiritual enemy.

### **Romans 7:21–23**

**<sup>21</sup>I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good.**

**<sup>22</sup>For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man,**

**<sup>23</sup>but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.**

Your flesh is at war with your spirit.

Your flesh wants to do what you want to do ...

>Here I am. I'm not going!

>Here I am. Send someone else."

Your spirit wants to do what God wants you to do.

>Here I am God. Send me.

How do we learn to daily choose to die to our  
flesh so our spirit can live- consider ...

**What we feed grows and what we starve  
dies.**

If we feed our flesh, "Give me, give me, give me.  
It becomes all about me, me, me, me, me.  
Instead, if you deny your flesh/feed your spirit,  
you will experience God's presence and  
desire to do His will.

We often hesitate to pray this type of prayer  
because we are afraid God is going to send us  
to some God forsaken country w/no toilets.  
It is more likely that God is going to call us to be  
available to Him, right where we are.

He might simply urge you to encourage someone  
here on Sunday morning.

Perhaps prompt you call someone during the  
week/tell them you- thinking/praying for them.  
Or, He may send you to Africa- it is God's call and  
we are His servants.

Here I am God, send me!