

Introduction: A prayer I will never forget.

- Haiti – 1982
- A jungle compound – “hospital of pain.”
- The professor had a “secret weapon of power.”

Practice: Pray GREAT Prayers!

²³In that day you will no longer ask Me anything. I tell you the truth, My Father will give you whatever you ask in My name. ²⁴Until now you have not asked for anything in My name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

John 16:23-24 (NIV)

Five characteristics of great prayers:

1. Great prayers are deeply _____.

- Great prayers begin and end with God, Himself.

Examples:

- | | |
|---------|--------------------|
| ○ Moses | Exodus 33:17-19 |
| ○ David | Psalm 27:4 |
| ○ Paul | Philippians 3:8-10 |
| ○ Jesus | John 17:3 |

Jesus' teaching:

"Our Father" – Abba Father Matthew 6:9 (NASB)

2. Great prayers are birthed in _____.

- Great prayers reflect our desperate dependency on Him.

Examples:

- | | |
|------------|----------------|
| ○ Moses | Exodus 4:11-12 |
| ○ David | Psalm 51:16-17 |
| ○ Nehemiah | Nehemiah 1:3-4 |
| ○ Isaiah | Isaiah 6 |

Jesus' teaching:

"Who is in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name." Matthew 6:9 (NASB)

3. Great prayers _____ God's agenda.

- Great prayers are prayed by people who understand God's agenda for His world.

Examples:

- Moses Exodus 32:9-14
- Nehemiah Nehemiah 1:10-11
- Solomon 1 Kings 3:7-14

Jesus' teaching:

"Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

Matthew 6:10 (NASB)

4. Great prayers take God _____.

- Great prayers are promise centered, not problem centered.

Examples:

- Moses
- Nehemiah Nehemiah 1:6-9
- David Psalm 103:6-10
- Paul Philippians 1, Ephesians 1, Colossians 1

Jesus' teaching:

"Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

Matthew 6:11-12 (NASB)

5. Great prayers demand great _____! Why?

- They are **DANGEROUS!**
- They boldly demand of God that He live up to His character.

Examples:

- Abraham Genesis 18
- Moses Exodus 32

- They dare to stand in the gap becoming the answer to the prayer if God wills it.

Examples:

Ezekiel 22:30-31

- Esther
- Nehemiah
- Jesus

Jesus' teaching:

"For Thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory forever and ever!" Amen.

Matthew 6:13b

Summary: Great prayers ask the **improbable**, expect the **impossible**, and receive the **unthinkable** because of Jesus.

- Because of Jesus' **command**, we boldly ask the **improbable**. Matthew 7:7-8
- Because of Jesus' **promise**, we expect the **impossible**. John 16:24
- Because of Jesus' **power**, we receive the **unthinkable**. Ephesians 3:20