



# Praying Like Monks, Living Like Fools. Chapters 5 & 6



**Chapter 5** discusses intercessory prayer and the power and privilege of being an advocate for another. Then, in Tyler's authentic way, he describes the frustration we can experience when God is silent or chooses to answer our specific prayers with 'no, but different...'

Think about the story of Monica (p93-94). What if you lived next door to Monica, and one day, you found this sweet old lady with tired eyes by the neighborhood well?

When you asked her why she was crying, she replied, "I've been praying for my prodigal for years, and I don't think my prayers matter."

Q: How would you respond to Monica?

Q: If you were to share a Bible story with Monica, which story would you reference, and how might that story be helpful?



Read Mark 2:1-12. The story of the four friends who acted on their prayers for their paralyzed friend.

Q: Why did Jesus make the four men jump through so many hoops to get their prayers answered?

Q: Do you ever think of prayer as a series of mindless gates or repetitions?

Q: Read John 14:12-14; what does it mean to pray in the authority of Jesus? (p105)

## God's will.



Read Matthew 6:5-15. Let's look at the 3rd big idea in the prayer template that Jesus gave to his disciples. "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven." (v10)

Q: How does intercessory prayer affect God's will being done on earth?

Q: What did Pete Grieg mean when he said, "Intercession is impossible until we allow the things that break God's heart to break ours as well." (p108)

Q: What is an example of an intercessory prayer you've prayed that was affected by what breaks God's heart?

Q: What resources do we have available when we engage in intercessory prayer? (p106)

Q: How does intercessory prayer change you? (p106-109)



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Satan has used the same playbook against man since the Garden.

Q: How does Satan attack the power and effectiveness of our intercessory prayers? (p101).

Q: How do you battle Satan?



### Activation

Tyler said there are two ways we can partner with God to bring His will on earth as it is in heaven: 1) Release control. 2) Ask in faith. (p113-114)

Think of someone you've prayed for whom God has not answered the prayer.

Q: What would it look like to release control?

Q: What would it look like if you asked in faith?

Q: What would it look like to walk out your intercessory prayers?





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**Chapter 6** discusses prayers of petition, which is the prayer topic we are most interested in and spend the most time doing. It's reflexive for us to ask God to solve life's big problems, the tragic and sublime challenges. When we get a scary prognosis, we desperately ask God for healing, and in our loneliness, we ask God to give us the perfect mate.

## Mundane Middle



Returning to the Lord's Prayer Matthew 6:5-15, let's look at the 4th big idea in Jesus' prayer template, "Give us this day our daily bread." (v11). It's interesting that when Jesus taught the disciples how to ask for things, he went to the mundane middle for his example. While bread is not mundane for a starving man, 'white bread' is about as boring as you can get in the West.

Q: Have you ever prayed for a parking spot?

Q: If you had, what was your popoff response when a space opened up?

Q: Does a prayer for a parking spot require sophisticated language?

Tyler said that sophisticated language can be the enemy of authentic prayer. He encourages us to be grounded in ordinary language and the ordinary routine of daily life. Enjoy the small talk conversations with God that invite Him into the here and now, "What I'll eat, who I'll meet, what I'll do, and how I'll feel about it all along the way." (p117-119)

Q: How do grounded prayers affect your attitude of gratitude?

Q: How do grounded prayers affect your sense of self-sufficiency?

The more we expand our prayer conversation to include the mundane middle, the more the Spirit will replace our independence and control with trust. (p121)

Q: What would your day look like if your trust muscle was stronger?

## Two Reasons God Wants Us To Ask.



Tyler says there are two primary reasons why God wants us to ask. Those reasons are Relationship and Empowerment.

Relationship is the bookend of the biblical story, and everything in the middle is about restoring a broken relationship.

"We cannot build trust with God without asking. We can't relate to God if we never ask. Without asking, God is something less than a relational Being. He is a machine delivering on our desires, maybe even before we become conscious of what we want. Asking is the means by which we build the relationship with God he designed us to enjoy." (p123)

Q: Does the paragraph above ring true?

Q: If your goal is to be in a relationship with God, what are you going to do to make Him a personal Being?

Empowerment is God's plan to build relationships.

Q: Read Exodus 32:12-13, What did Moses use to ask God to change His mind?

Q: Read James 5:16-17, What can the prayers of a righteous man accomplish?

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Q: Read Matthew 7:9-11, What does your Heavenly Father want to give you?



## Activation

The Spirit wants to empower you to a richer relationship with God built upon a growing trust muscle. A pattern of consistent asking develops this muscle.

Q: How are you going to remember to ask God for things in the mundane middle?

Q: How are you going to remember God's faithfulness when He gives you what you ask?

Q: Who are you going to teach this lesson to tomorrow?

