



Praying With Action, Not Just Words Week 4

Key Texts: Matthew 6:9–13 & James 5:16

Big Idea: Prayers that don't change us won't change the world.

Bottom Line: Pray like it depends on God. Live like it depends on you.

Action Step: Pray for one person every day this week — and do something practical to bless them.

Have you ever prayed for something... and then walked away unchanged?

You prayed.

But nothing in your schedule shifted.

Nothing in your priorities moved.

Nothing in your habits adjusted.

We prayed — but we didn't **move**.

Prayers that don't change **us** won't change the world.

JESUS TEACHES US HOW TO PRAY

Matthew 6:9–13 “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”

This isn't just a prayer to recite.

It's a blueprint for how to **live**.

Every line demands something:

“Our Father” — relationship

“Hallowed be Your name” — reverence

“Your kingdom come” — surrender

“Your will be done” — **alignment**

When you pray “Your will be done,” you are volunteering for His will to be done — even when it goes against what you want.

Prayer isn’t passive. It’s **dangerous**.

JAMES MAKES IT PRACTICAL

James 5:16 “The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.” Earnest means intentional.

Righteous means aligned.

Prayer is powerful when the person praying is **aligned**.

And alignment always leads to **action**.

1. THE UMBRELLA

We say:

“God bless me.”

“God use me.”

“God send revival.”

But we’re holding the umbrella of **comfort. Fear. Busyness. Control.**

We want the blessing — but we don’t want to get **wet**.

The water didn’t change.

The **position** did.

God wasn’t withholding.

The umbrella was blocking.

Prayer isn’t meant to protect us from obedience.

It’s meant to align us with it.

When you pray for your coworker — maybe you're meant to encourage them.

When you pray for your neighbor — maybe you're meant to serve them.

When you pray for revival — maybe you're meant to live it.

Sometimes the answer to your prayer is your **obedience**.

2. YOUR ACTION STEP

Pray for one person every day this week. Who is it?

- **One name.**
- **One person.**
- **Seven days.**
- **But don't stop there.**

Do something practical to bless them.

Pray like it depends on God. Live like it depends on **you**.

3. WHY THIS MATTERS...

If prayer doesn't move us, it becomes noise.

But when prayer aligns us —

- **Heaven touches earth.**
- **Needs get met.**
- **People feel seen.**
- **Hope rises.**

Not because we are powerful — but because we are **available**.

Who is your one person?

What umbrella do you need to put down?

- Comfort?
- Fear?
- Pride?

- Busyness?

Revival doesn't begin with louder prayers.

It begins with aligned lives.

Not God aligning His will to ours — but us aligning ours to **His**.

Let's stop praying safe prayers. Let's pray bold, kingdom, alignment prayers. And then let's live them out.

Because when we pray like it depends on God and live like it depends on us —

That's when heaven touches earth. That's when prayer becomes power.

Amen.

TALK IT OVER

When has prayer changed you — not just your situation?

Share a time when praying actually shifted your attitude, perspective, or behavior. What changed in you before anything changed around you?

What “umbrella” do you tend to hold onto?

Is it comfort? Fear? Busyness? Control? Pride?

How might that be blocking what God is trying to do in and through you?

Who is your “one person” this week?

Why do you think that name came to mind?

What practical step could you take to bless them beyond just praying?

PUT IT INTO ACTION

- Pray Daily for One Person

Choose one name. Pray intentionally for them every day this week — not rushed, not generic — specific and expectant.

- Take One Practical Step

Do something tangible for that person: Send encouragement. Buy coffee. Offer help. Invite them to dinner. Meet a need. Follow through.

- Drop One Umbrella

Identify one area where you've been resisting alignment with God. This week, take one concrete step of obedience in that area.

Check out This week's Youversion plan here - Faith that Works

Check out This week's Right Now Media option here - Navigating with the Lords Prayer.