



2019 August Series: Made Well

Message #4: Five Things Christian Parents Should Pray for Their Kids

Getting the Nod:

Video: **Children Pray the Lord's Prayer**

Wow... what a month! What a God! 30 days of prevailing prayer and trust that God can do the impossible... God is blessing our action!! Remember... faith is a verb and talking about things is never enough... it is walking in light that God can use. Faith can only be faith if we have endeavored to act... and God will come on the scene in power and might for His people. We're seeing it.

Quote on the Great Composers and Inspiration: It has been said that the greatest composers did not set to work because of inspiration... they found inspiration because they were already working. Beethoven, Bach, Mozart wrote new musical material with regularity like accountants work with numbers. ***They didn't waste time waiting for inspiration... inspiration found them on the path of purpose!*** Not like the absent parishioner...

Joke on being in the secret service: A pastor said to his congregation: **"We need to be active followers of Jesus. We all need to join the Army of the Lord!"** After the sermon, a man came up to the pastor and replied, **"I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor."** The pastor then questioned him, "How come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?" He whispered back, **"I'm in the secret service."**

Transition: I've got news for you... there's no secret service in the journey of faith. God is bigger than our fears... greater than our mountains... more powerful than our enemy... and more faithful than the rising of the sun!!! Blessed be His name!

Connecting Us:

And our faith action this month has been focused on healing, sharing our testimonies, and praying for big things. How are we going to close off our month of challenges? Well, whatever we do, we have to make sure we do it with the right attitude and motivation...

Illustration of the Secret to Forgiving Others: The preacher's Sunday sermon was Forgive Your Enemies. Toward the end of the service, He asked his congregation, "how many of you have forgiven their enemies?" About half held up their hands. He then repeated his question. As it was past lunchtime, this time about 80 percent held up their hands. He then repeated his question again. All responded, except one small elderly lady. "Mrs. Jones?" inquired the preacher, Are you not willing to forgive your enemies? "No, I don't have any." she replied. smiling sweetly. "Mrs. Jones, That is very unusual. How old are you?" "Ninety-three," she replied. "Oh Mrs. Jones, what a blessing and a lesson to us all. Would you please come down in front of this congregation and tell us all how a person can live to be ninety-three years and not have an enemy in the world?" The little sweetheart of a lady tottered down the aisle, faced the congregation, and said boldly **"I outlived the old hags."**

Transition: That's not the right attitude and motivation! Our goal for the Lord should be this... That when we die we will be remembered for our living faith... not having a dead faith for while we are living!! Let us be about our Father's business!! And may we all desire these four things as believers...

- **To be alive...** filled with hope and joy and peace and confidence
- **Be free...** free from chains of fear and doubt, free from addiction and mental chaos, free from the need of acceptance and relational strife.
- **Be significant...** significant in purpose and impact, influence and leadership, loving and serving.
- **Be an instrument for God's love!!** An instrument of testimony and praise, restoration and rescue, burden-bearing and compassion-sharing.

So, stand with me and let's pray that prayer for ourselves today... Father God, the Lover of souls and the Saver of men, we are your people in this broken world. Accomplish powerful things in us and through us. Make us alive in you; set us free as your family; help us to be significant for you; and use us as instruments to reach the lost and the least because you love us. Amen.

Transition: May the Lord answer that prayer. But now, let us act as a congregation for the present and future of this church... **let us pray for our kids! By the way, have you heard that God is left-handed? A little boy named Phillip figured it out...**

Joke about God Being Left-Handed: Little Philip was spending the weekend with his grandmother after a particularly trying week in pre-school. His grandmother decided to take him to the park on Saturday morning. It was a beautiful day. His grandmother commented to Phillip, 'Doesn't the park look like an artist painted this scenery? And did you know God painted this just for you?' 'Yes,' replied Philip, 'God did it and he did it left-handed.' This confused his grandmother so she asked him, 'What makes you say God did this with his left hand?' 'Well,' said Philip, **'we learned at Sunday School last week that Jesus sits on God's right hand.'**

Back to the message: There are five things that every Christian parent should pray for when praying for our kids... turn with me to Mark 9 again...

God's Take on the Prayers That Every Christian Parent Should Pray:

Five Things Christian Parents Should Pray For:

NKJV | Mk 9:21-25 So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. 22 And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." 23 Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." 24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" 25 When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!"

Let us not only pray this morning for our kids... but let us believe in what God can do with their lives and their potential... let us by faith believe this will be a monumental moment

1. Conviction of Sin.

- **Let's be honest, we cannot monitor our children 24/7**, neither is it our responsibility to play the Holy Spirit in his or her life.
- But we can entrust them to God and ask His Spirit to convict our children, guard their hearts and keep them from evil."
- NLT | Jn 16:8 **And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment.**
- And may we also pray that they are...

2. Being free from the need of other's approval.

- **Growing up is tough.** Peer pressure can be vicious and the desire to be significant doesn't end when you turn 18.
- **It is vital for our children to make choices based on the Lord's plan** and leading, NOT based on fears, insecurities, misplaced identity, or the desire for other's favor."
- NLT | Ga 1:10 **Obviously, I'm not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ's servant.**
- We also are believing for them...

3. To Experience God as Our Rewarder.

- **There are so many pitfalls** for our kids to fall into. Drugs, alcohol, gambling, cutting, excessive gambling, sex, anorexia, and the list goes on. These things promise some sort of fulfillment, some sort of escape.
- **It is important that our children learn to RUN to God as their Rewarder.** Only He can satisfy, and He promises to do just that!
- NLT | Heb 11:6 **And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.**
- We also believe by faith for them...

4. To have a love for God's Word.

- **God's word is a lamp, a shelter, a rock and a sword.**
- It could be compared to the **best weapon ever**– the kind that morphs into whatever you need at the time!
- If our children have a love for God's word, **we can be assured of their success.**
- NLT | Jos 1:8 **Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.**
- Lastly...

5. That they would submit their lives to God.

- A great man or woman, boy or girl is **the one who humbles herself before God.**
- **True greatness is not found in climbing ladders but in stooping low in the hidden places.**
- That's a secret I want my children to know.
- NLT | Jos 1:8 **Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.**

In a few moments from now we will be closing our service with prayer for our kids. Here are the instructions...

Transition:

8:45 Agenda: After sermon, Pastor Bruce will divide congregation into two groups that will go to the Heritage Kidz Room and the Youth Chapel in the Kline

Center. I will lead this time of prayer in the Kline Center while Pastor's Jodie and Pastor Justin lead in the Heritage Kidz Worship Room.

11:00 Agenda: After a short message from Pastor Jon... Students will come to the platform, followed by Pastor Jodie and the Heritage Kids. Pastor Jon will lead us in the prayer time.

Transition to Church Praying for Our Kids: