

**But You Said...**

Have you ever felt helpless? What happens when you feel backed in a metaphorical corner? Those moments when you are surrounded by what appears to be insurmountable odds and you feel outnumbered. Visit a social media platform, turn to a newscast or just have a conversation about politics and you begin to have the thought, "how can I possibly affect positive change in my world or in the space that I occupy in this world?" It becomes exhausting and we resort to withdrawing or taking things into our own hands and relying on human initiative.

So, what do we do when we have a desire to bring effective change, but we just don't know where to start or we are so intimidated by the task?

In the Book of Genesis chapter 32 we find the narrative of Jacob and Esau, twin brothers who are at odds with each other and for good reason. Esau who was to receive the first-born birthright was cheated out of that birthright and inheritance by his second-born brother Jacob. There are years of bad blood here and Jacob returns home after leaving in fear of being killed by Esau. What will happen? Will Jacob survive? How will Esau respond to Jacob's invitation to meet and restore the relationship? Jacob finds himself backed into a corner, his back to the river and facing the approaching Esau and 400 men.

Have you ever felt like your back was to the river and you were facing a world of brokenness you wanted to bring effective change to? What do I do about racism? What can I do about abortion? What can I do about sex trafficking? I believe in equality for all of God's creation but what can I do? How do I navigate our political environment? Can I love my neighbor as myself when we are vastly different?

Here's what Jacob does, and this is why we are going to join together this week for prayer. Jacob prayed and he starts with these powerful words, "But You Said". We are not weak and helpless backed in a corner with no means to affect the world around us. We are children of promise! The power of God resides in us through His promises so this week we pray, "But You Said".

James 5:16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.



*Join us as we cover this week in prayer by committing to pray for one specific hour in the week. Scan the QR code to sign up for an available time slot.*

**Monday: Promise to heal our land - 2 Chronicles 7:11-18**

If there was ever a time for us to pray that our nation would be healed, it's now. Whether it's the healing of the racial divide, Covid 19, or the wildfires/ other natural disasters, we need to take hold of what the Lord said to us as His people if we are to see our land healed. Join us in a time of humbling ourselves through fasting and seeking the Lord this week. Let us ask the Lord to search our hearts and empower us to turn from any ways that displease Him and do so with confidence that the Lord will hear our prayers.

**Tuesday: Promise for rest - Matthew 11:28-30**

During this season it is extremely easy to get weighed down with fears of the unknown, unrealized expectations, burdens of sin, and overall weariness. That is why it is critical that we approach each day from a deep sense of rest in Christ. It starts by knowing where our true rest comes from and the Lord's deep desire to bear the heavy weight of everyday life WITH YOU. It's time to pray that we would learn the unforced rhythms of Jesus that turn meaningless, wearisome toil into spiritual productivity.

## **Wednesday: Promise of His presence James 4:7-10**

During times of uncertainty, our emotions have the tendency to become louder and louder, making it difficult to sense God's presence. But God said that if we will draw close to Him, He promises He will draw close to us. This truth can calm even the greatest of uncertainties that we face. Let's pray that we as a church would draw close to God with our hearts, minds, souls, and strength. May our prayer be that of Moses in Exodus 33:15: "Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here."

## **Thursday: Promise to give wisdom - James 1:5-8**

As we continue on in our journey of becoming and belonging through loving God, loving others, and making disciples, we will increasingly need more Godly wisdom. The wisdom from God relates to life even in the most trying times. This wisdom begins with respect for God, leads to living by God's direction, and results in the ability to tell right from wrong. Asking for wisdom is ultimately asking to be like Christ as the Bible identifies Christ as the "wisdom of God" (1 Corinthians 1:24; 2:1-7).

## **Friday: Prayer for reconciliation - 2 Corinthians 5:11-20**

Reconciliation involves a change in the relationship between God and man as well as man and man. It assumes there has been a breakdown in the relationship, but now there has been a change from a state of enmity and fragmentation to one of harmony and fellowship. When we pray for the reconciliation of families, of friendships, and of those who are far from God, we pray with authority because this is our identity. It's not just something we do, it's who we are. Let us pray that God would empower us to be His ambassadors of reconciliation in our homes, on our jobs, in our schools, and in every sphere of influence.

## **Saturday: Promise of God's protection - Ephesians 6:11-18**

It's one thing to know that our battle is not against flesh and blood and it's another to be alert and prepared for when the attack comes. The Apostle Paul made it clear that we are in the midst of spiritual warfare and this will only become more evident as we draw closer to Christ's return. Take time to study/pray on the full armor of God so that we may be able to stand our ground when experiencing the attacks of the "powers of this dark world." We must depend on God's mighty power and not our own.

*Join us for a special edition of our noon-day prayer each day this week on Facebook live.*