

Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

Dare - Part 3

Dare to Travail

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Introduction

History shows many instances of God's power. For example, the revivals or 'awakenings' since the 1700s, where the Holy Spirit moved people to truly repent and turn to Christ. These awakenings led to thousands converting to Christianity and becoming powerful witnesses, transforming towns, cities, regions, and even spreading to other countries. The size and speed of these movements were too great to be human made. It was God's way of showing His love and mercy to a broken world, and each began with fervent, traving prayer.

Discuss

A – Knowing what God is like changes the way we pray

1. If you were face to face with Christ, what emotion do you think He would show towards you (recall John 14:9)? Read Exodus 34:5-7. This was God's response to Moses asking Him to show His glory. Discuss God's response and share what it means to you. What is Moses' reaction in the verses that follow?
2. Pastor Brooke explained that the phrase "compassionate and gracious God" is a common word-pairing equated to a parent's loyalty towards their child and a willingness to help in the moment of need. How could reflecting on that affect the way we pray?

B – Knowing who we are to God changes the way we pray

3. Read Romans 8:16-17, Ephesians 2:6 and 5:25-27, 1 Peter 2:9, Acts 20:28. Note what these Scriptures say about Christians and discuss how knowing this can affect the way we pray.

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4. Pastor Brooke talked about people travailing in prayer, crying out to God like a woman in labour. What situation or need would make you pray like this? How does understanding and valuing who we are to God make our prayers more passionate and meaningful? Do you believe that your intense prayers could change the course of a nation?

C – When we acknowledge the sovereignty of God it changes the way we pray

5. Sovereignty is defined as supreme power or authority. Scripture reveals that God is omniscient (all knowing), omnipresent (present everywhere in time and space), and omnipotent (having all power) (consider Psalm 139:1-10). Points A and B do not diminish God's sovereignty. How do we acknowledge His sovereignty through our prayers and faith?
6. What should our attitude be when God does not answer prayer the way we had hoped (consider Job 13:15, Daniel 3:16-18, Luke 22:42)?

D – When we are anointed by the compassionate gracious and sovereign God it changes the way we pray

7. Read Luke 4:18-19. As part of the body of Christ, abiding in Christ and co-heirs with Christ, we are co-labourers with Christ, active and anointed in His ministry. What do you see as your part in His anointing? What are you called and anointed to do for the Kingdom at this time (no matter how big or small)?

Respond

In 1873 Dublin, British evangelist Henry Varley said, "The world has yet to see what God can do with and through a person fully dedicated to Him." D L Moody responded, "With God's help, I aim to be that person." What would it take for you to be that person? God's plan is for the Church to be that person. What would it take for you to be everything Christ says you can be, as an effective part of the Church?