

## Teach Us To Pray

### Lesson 1 “Cultural Reformation”

I. Introduction - We are going to take a break from our study through the various books of the Bibles to start a series on prayer over the next few weeks.

#### A. Why?

1. We've been talking about revival a lot this year and I'm ready to see it. God wants us to see it. Prayer is where many of us who don't, will want to see it.
2. We are in a key time in the year. Kids are going back to school - we need to pray over them. We have important national elections coming up we need to pray over. We we have all sorts of political chaos going on, and the only thing that is going that is prayer.
3. We need to see people hungry for Jesus. The only thing that brings that is the spirit of God.
4. Too many Christians are going through the motions right now. They have a name that they are alive, but they are dead. There is no passion! Jesus is like any husband, He wants a passionate bride!

B. What? I'm going to take the first couple of sessions and then Craig and Tonya are going to do the next three. We will be teaching through some of the basics about how to pray effective prayers. At the end of each service, we'll spend time praying together.

II. Cultural Reformation - Tonight, I'm not going to teach as much on the mechanics of prayer as I am the heart of prayer. At its root, prayer is about intimacy with God. I want to talk about cultural reformation. God spoke to me about reformation in a time of prayer last year and I want to share some of this publicly with each of you. I believe this is what God wants for our nation.

A. Revival vs. Reformation - Last fall after I I began to pray in my car and cry out for him to change our nation. I began to cry out for reformation.

1. Revival is when we bring life to something that is dead or dying. Essentially the form is right, it just needs new life again. That's not really what America needs. We need to go beyond a goose bump into actual real change.
2. What is reformation? It's a compound word. Re means to do again, form - means to make or create. We are so broken from God's perspective, we need to be reformed.
  - a. Sexual Identity
  - b. Family Life - who raises our kids, involvement in education, marriages.
  - c. Pursuit of the dollar above pursuit of God.
  - d. Pursuing fame, ego above drawing worth in Jesus.

e. Our churches - the hollow big box - lights, haze, casual dress, contemporary form, but no substance. Seeker friendly messages, poor biblical exegesis, very few miracles. No wonder we have so little impact.

## B. Romans 12:1-2

1. Our reasonable service is to be a living sacrifice.
2. Conformed - metamorphoo - this is the word for how a caterpillar becomes a butterfly. The way it happens is it becomes goo. All of the parts are in the inside to become the caterpillar, but it has to change forms and become a goo first. This means it may look unrecognizable for a while. This may be what is happening to our nation right now so we can be reformed.
3. We don't need the old, we need to something that is far better and more biblically aligned than ever before.

## C. Reformations happen when people rediscover and do the word of God.

1. Martin Luther - **Romans 1:17** *the just shall live by faith*. Luther broke with hundreds of years of Catholic tradition (all he had ever known) of selling indulgences, breaking with the idea only the pope can release people with sin, getting rid of purgatory, etc.
2. King Josiah - the word of God was rediscovered after being lost during the reign of 2 other ungodly kings - 57 years. **2 Kings 22:8-20, 2 Kings 23:1-25**.
3. We need to make an outright commitment to discover, understand, believe, and obey the word of God. We must reject every other belief system that comes against the word of God! Period.
4. This is why I'm teaching through the New Testament on Wednesdays. God wants you to know the word.

## III. Conclusion - 2 Prayers

A. **Matthew 26:39** Prayer of consecration - ask the spirit of God to do what our flesh can't.

B. **2 Chronicles 7:14** - Prayer for the healing of the land

C. Break into groups and pray - Pray over the spiritual condition of the nation first. None of the other can happen without a passionate people. Pray over the schools and education and our kids, pray over the elections, pray over the economy, and pray for mass salvations.