

Jimmy Witcher:

Well, good morning, Trinity Fellowship and Happy New Year. It is great to be with everybody. Welcoming every campus as we join together here at the top of the year, all coming together. And can we all just say a little prayer for our friends in Lubbock and the Texas Tech Raiders? And I just hate that. We're sorry. I hate it for us. I was hoping to see Texas in there and it just didn't happen. So anyway, so our hearts go out to you, but welcome to every campus and we're just so glad you're here. I love this time of year. I love that this is Zion. This is the beginning of the year. This is the year where we kick everything off.

And so I want to encourage you, this is a unique week at Trinity Fellowship Church. And so it's unique in that we are setting the pattern for a new year. It's an opportunity for us to focus in on God, to focus on what God is doing in us. I'm going to bring what I believe is a prophetic message for us here in just a minute to help us see what God is going to be doing. But we have all kinds of things that are happening. And it includes tonight at 6:00 PM, we have Chuck Pierce that will be with us. And so we'll be broadcasting again live to every campus. I want to encourage you to come and be a part of that.

It says in scripture that the one who receives a prophet receives the prophet's reward. And so sometimes we don't always understand. I know I hear people sometimes say, "Oh, I just don't understand." Or, "I don't know if I get much out of it." Can I tell you? It's not just about what we hear from the stage, but it's about the sacrifice of time, worship, and being in the presence of the prophetic that impacts us spiritually.

And so part of what we're going to see, as I go through this message, is this is a year of doing some things that maybe make us uncomfortable. Some things that maybe we don't understand that maybe aren't easy. And certainly I want to encourage you, come tonight, be a part of Zion services tonight with Chuck Pierce. It's going to be amazing. Chuck doesn't travel that much anymore, so it's a real honor that he is coming to see us.

Also want to let you know that we are going to be doing a prayer fast time. So I'm calling the church to a fast, a seven-day fast. So it'll take us from this Sunday through next Sunday. And I want to encourage you to fast. Pastor Kim just shared with us at the Hollywood Road campus during the ministry time about how Jesus in Matthew 6 gives three directives. And it really goes into even this message I have. It's called Training for a Harvest. And Jesus is instructing us on these three things that we can do. And I haven't forgot that we're going to give. So you all don't worry, we're going to give here in just a minute. I'm getting there. But here's the three things. He says in Matthew 6, He says, "Give, pray, and fast." Give, pray, and fast. Those three things have a promise of breakthrough associated with them.

And so I'm calling us as a church to a fast, a seven-day fast. So what is a fast? And I want to do this. Sometimes in the past we've said, well, we're going to fast media or fast maybe social media, maybe we want to fast, playing video games, whatever. I think that's a good thing to focus this. But a true fast, and the fast Jesus was talking about, literally means giving up some kind of food. And it literally means you're probably going to be hungry. So there you go. I'm calling you to be hungry this week. And so give up some food. Give up a meal, give up a food group. You might just do a vegetable fast. You might just do broth. Now, I'm doing a 24 hour, 100% fast. So every 24 hours, I'm not eating any food at all.

And so whatever it is that you feel God's calling you to, do a fast and give up something. And it's meant to train our bodies so that we can say, "Hey, you're not in control anymore."

Congregation:

That's right.



Jimmy Witcher:

You don't get to demand, little stomach that rumbles when it's thinking, "I had a Christmas cookie not that long ago. Another one would be lovely." No, you don't get any more Christmas cookies for another year. You're going to grow up, you're going to be strong. And so I want to encourage you to fast and then pray. And I'm going to talk more about pray as we get into the message. But the first thing Jesus talks about in Matthew 6 is giving.

And so our giving is an act of worship to God. And we have had so many testimonies. I have just heard so many of folks that have just started tithing since this last November who gave in the miracle offering sacrificially. It's just incredible to see what God's doing. And I want to encourage you, as we begin 2026, that this is an opportunity for you to create a new pattern of giving if you haven't been a giver, but it's also an opportunity for all of us to remember we are giving to God because we believe and we trust in Him. And so I want to encourage you at every campus. You can make a check out the TFC at your campus and it will be there. That gift stays there in your local campus.

Also, I want to challenge you to be a kingdom builder, contribute to the Kingdom Builder Fund. It's just amazing to see the impact that Trinity can have on our community and on the world. And so when you give to the Kingdom Builder Fund, you're helping us fund all of those missions and outreach activities and all of those things that we do. So I want to encourage you to be a part of both of those. And with that said, you can grab the buckets there at the end of your aisle and you can pass those across. Thank you for being so faithful.

And then the last thing I want to remind us of is this coming Wednesday at every campus, we are going to be doing a Wednesday night Zion worship and prophetic night. Now again, not unlike what we're doing tonight, I want to encourage you that at the top of the year, spend two nights worshipping Jesus. Spend two nights away from doing some of the things we might do. It's Wednesday night. You're not going to miss any of the football games. They don't start until Thursday. So come tonight and then come on Wednesday night and let's worship God. Let's worship together, pray together, sacrifice for Him.

So let me talk about what I want to share with us today. This is Zion 2026, Training for Harvest. And here's what I believe is I was praying for us as a congregation and really trying to pray into what is God doing this year? What is He doing for us? What is He going to do through us? And one of the things I'm always praying for at the beginning of the year for myself, but also for us as a congregation is God, what do I need to do to change, to be prepared for what you're going to be doing in the new season? In other words, what do I need to do to adjust so that I'm ready for what you have?

And as I was doing that, I believe God said, this is a year, 2026 is a year of training for harvest, training for the harvest. In other words, there's a harvest, there's a reward, there's a promise, there's an opportunity. There are some things that God wants us to walk into this next year that we won't be able to walk into if we're not trained up and ready to go.

Congregation:

That's right.

Jimmy Witcher:

Our military just did some amazing things if you were tracking what happened in Venezuela and all that sort of stuff. I'm so thankful for our military and all they do and all we can do. They didn't just wake up one morning and think, "I think I'm going to go, let's go do this." They trained repeatedly and consistently so that they would be ready in the moment for the harvest. And it's the same sort of thing.



We have to train to prepare for the harvest. And the 1st of the year is a good time for us to be thinking about that. So God has a harvest and He is training us to be ready to receive that harvest.

Now, if there's a righteous criticism of Western Christianity, it's probably this, that we tend to be a bit soft. Our perspective on the Christian life is often me centered. I'm living my life and I'm seeking God to bless it. God's my father and He provides for all that I need, which both of those things are 100% true. It's just sometimes, from a spiritual perspective, what we need is not just to get our needs met. What we need is to allow God to allow us to be a little bit uncomfortable to fast, to pray, to worship, to do some things that we maybe haven't done before so that we can have the spiritual muscles necessary to move into and acquire the harvest that He has for us.

God wants to mature us. He wants to train us and mature us this year so that we will be spiritually strong enough to receive the promise that He has. Just as developing physical muscles requires us effort and discipline, so does developing spiritual strength and stamina. 2026 is going to be a great year of training where God is going to strengthen us and prepare us for what lies ahead, but we're going to have to do some things differently.

Now, I love Joshua 1. Joshua is about to lead the Israelites into the promised land. They're about to cross over the Jordan, and this is his conversation with the Lord. Joshua 1:6, God says, "Be strong and courageous. For you are the one who will lead these people to possess," would you all mind saying the word possess?

Congregation:

Possess.

Jimmy Witcher:

Possess. "To possess all the land I swore to their ancestors I would give them. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions that Moses gave you."

All right. So God is showing up to Joshua and He's saying, "Joshua, the promised land, the land that I promised to your ancestors, you've been wandering around the desert for 40 years to get this harvest, to get this promise, I'm about to lead you in. But you're going to have to be strong and courageous because you're going to have to possess the land." Now, this word possess is a fascinating word. It literally means inheritance that which is going to give, but it requires action. And of course, we know from the rest of the story, it's going to require Joshua to lead the armies across the Jordan River and then go attack all these different places. In other words, you have a promised land, just like the Israelites do, we have a promised land that's in front of us, but there's enemies squatting on our promised land.

So to possess the next thing that God has for us, we have to recognize that this is a spiritual battle. Just like Joshua had to be strong and courageous to go possess the land, we too have to become strong and courageous so that we can drive the enemy out of the land that we have in front of us. That means our future is not conflict free. It doesn't mean it's not full of promise. It doesn't mean that God's not going to be with us every step of the way, because both of those are true. It is full of promise. God is going to be with us every step of the way. But in order for us to possess the next thing that God has for us, we have to recognize that we're going to have to contend for it. And to contend for it, we're going to have to train for it. We're going to have to prepare for it. We're going to have to strengthen ourselves so that we can be ready to do this.

I believe this. In 2026, we will have a choice. We can choose strength and courage engaging with God on the field, or we can choose to slide by one more year in daddy's basement. And when I say daddy's basement, it's because sometimes we have this perspective of God that we're just here. He's here to



protect us and bless us, to take care of us. All of that's true. But there's an aspect of God that we miss. God is not about us being comfortable all the time.

Congregation:

That's right.

Jimmy Witcher:

We confuse comfort with blessing. And what God wants to do is stretch us and strengthen us. This is Hebrews 12. And the author of Hebrews is talking about this very issue about how God being a good father, how He wants to stretch us and grow us. Let's look at Hebrews 2 verse ... I'm sorry, Hebrews 12:2. He says, "We do this. We run the race. We do what we're supposed to do. We acquire the land, all those things. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, not ourselves."

Now, this is a key point. What God wants to do, and the reason we sometimes fast, and the reason we pray, and the reason we do these spiritual disciplines is because it reminds us it's not about me. It reminds us that this is about Jesus, and this is about me pursuing Jesus and about me putting Jesus as the center of everything that I do. So we do this. We conquer the land. We get to walk into our harvest by keeping our eyes on Jesus, not ourselves. "The champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting Jesus, He endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now, He is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. Think of all the hostility He endured from sinful people," for us, is what the author's saying. "Then you won't become weary and give up."

In other words, when sometimes we get tired, when we get weary, we want to give up. Just remember what Jesus did for us, what He put up for us. "After all, you have not yet given your lives and your struggle against sin." In other words, he's very graciously saying, "Is it as hard as what Jesus had to go through for you? Is what you're experiencing as difficult as Jesus? If it's not, then you have nothing to complain about," is basically what the authors say.

Verse five. "And have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as His children?" He said, "My child, don't make light of the Lord's discipline and don't give up when He corrects you. For the Lord disciplines those He loves and He punishes each one He accepts as His child."

Now, sometimes when we see this word discipline, we think of it as in the context of punishment and he's obviously talking about punishment here as well, but it's not really just punishment. It's more coaching, guiding, strengthening all those things. "As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as His own children. Whoever heard of a child who was never disciplined by its father. If God doesn't discipline you as He does all of His children, it means that you are illegitimate and not really His children at all. Since we respected our earthly fathers who disciplined us, shouldn't we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits and live forever? For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years doing the best they knew how, but God's discipline is always good for us so that we might share in His holiness. No discipline is enjoyable while it's happening, it's painful. But afterwards there will be," listen, "a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way."

See, this is the harvest that I believe God has for us. So He says, verse 12, "So take a new grip with your tired hands and strengthen your weak knees. Mark out a straight path for your feet so that those who are weak and lame will not fall, but become strong."

Now, I love this last little piece because it's a picture. How many of you have ever tried to set down a two-year old who doesn't want to be set down? It's like they lose their landing gear. I mean, you're trying to set them down and they just won't stick. Or the opposite, you're trying to pick them up and they don't want to be picked up, so their hands ... That's what he's talking about. Strengthen your feeble



knees. Strengthen your tired hands. Come on, stand up strong. Endure this training because God is training you to walk into a harvest that He has for you.

Congregation:

Yes.

Jimmy Witcher:

So embrace it. Embrace what God is doing. Buck up. Let's go. God's got something for you. Let Him discipline you. Let Him coach you.

So several years ago, about a decade ago, Kim and I were facing one of those big birthdays that we have along the way. And we were facing a big birthday, our kids had finished, out of the house and all that sort of thing, and so we thought we need to get in shape. We can't finish the rest of our life, we need to get in shape. So we went and did what you do when you want to get in shape, many of you may have already done this this year, and we went and joined the gym, which was awesome. And so we went to the gym and we walked around in the gym, did a few exercises, and I realized it's been 25 years since I've done this.

And my mind remembers what an 18-year-old can do. My body was like, "Dude, we're not there anymore. I don't know who you thought we were, but this is not what we do." And so we were struggling. And so they kept having these advertisements and they said, "Hey, you can hire a coach to come help you if you talk to the front desk." We went to the front desk. We said, "We need help." And they paired us with this gentleman, we'll call him CT. So they paired us with CT and CT was amazing. And so he was our coach and He was just incredible. He was the nicest, sweetest, soft-spoken, kind gentleman. He was also 6'2", about 210 pounds, and about 2% body fat. But he's a soft spoken guy.

And then one time ... He has a hobby. He did MMA for a hobby. And so he invited us to come to one of His bouts. And so we decided to go to his bout, only MMA event I've ever been to. And he was one of the title bouts, so he was right towards the end. And so he's in the ring and he's fighting this big old monster of a guy and this guy keeps trying to hit him and he gets hit a few times. I'm thinking, "Oh, CT, you're not doing great." And then CT grabbed him and it was amazing to watch. He took this guy, watered him up in a little ball, and then he made the ball smaller and smaller and smaller until that guy didn't want to play anymore. And I leaned over to Kim and said, "Don't ever make CT mad."

And so we would go and we would go to the gym, and he always carried around this little black book. And so he would have us do something and he would write it in his little black book. And then we would come back the next week and he would give us the weight to do something again. But it was more than it was the week before. And I would say, "CT, you need to look in your little black book. This is more than it was last week." He goes, "I know." And so I would do it and I'm like, "Oh, this is hard." I mean, every week it was hard. Every week it was harder than the week before. And I would tell him, "This is harder than it was last week." And he says, "I know." And I was like, "It's supposed to be getting easier. This is supposed to be getting softer." He's like, "No."

So then we would do something, we would do an exercise and I would say, "CT, I don't like this exercise." He's like, "It's okay. If you'll just quit complaining about it, it'll be over before you know it." This thing went on for days and weeks. Never easier, always harder. And he was always just soft and kind and he would say, "You can do it." And then we would say, "No, I can't do this." And he's like, "But you are doing it."

Congregation:



Yeah.

Jimmy Witcher:

"I know you don't think you can do it, but you're doing it." And he was building us in strength. And it was amazing over that time. I loved that time with him. And it really did show me that I can do way more than I ever thought I could.

Now, here's the point of that story. I think we think of a good father more like Santa Claus than CT. See, we think of God, more often than not, as someone we can go in, sit on His lap, give Him our list of desires, and they're going to show up in a few weeks. Instead of recognizing, no, God's a lot more like a physical trainer who sees our future, sees what we can become, knows we need to be strong and courageous so we can possess the harvest that He has for us. And so He wants to take us through some trials, some tribulation, some difficulties, some hardships along the way, not because He's mad, not because we've done something wrong, quite the opposite. Because He loves us and He wants to see us get stronger to walk into the next thing that He has for us.

Congregation:

That's right.

Jimmy Witcher:

And I say this to say because it's so important that we recognize that the difficulties we're going through sometimes is not the lack of God's blessing, it's actually His blessing.

Congregation:

Come on.

Jimmy Witcher:

It's His blessing of a moment of difficulty, of struggle, of resistance, to prepare us for the next thing that we have.

See, we've got to recognize that God is a good God. God, the Father, He's a good Father and He loves us so much and He wants us to be the best version of ourselves. But one of the things that we have to learn to embrace is discomfort.

This is one of the reasons why I think fasting is so important for us in this season. It's important for us to choose to fast and just be a little bit uncomfortable. In the big scheme of things, it's not that big of a deal, but to be a little bit uncomfortable as an act of our will prepares us to move into the things that God has for us. To be willing to give up some time so we can come to corporate worship. To give up some energy so that we can serve somewhere. To be able to recognize it's not just about me, but it's about God strengthening me, strengthening my feeble knees, strengthening my weak hands, so that He can prepare us for that season of walking into the harvest that He has.

See, the fear that I have, the fear that I have is that I won't be ready for the blessing that God wants to give. And if I'm not ready for the blessing that God wants to give, then God can't give me the blessing. Not because He's mean, but because He loves me too much to let me walk into that realm not strong enough to be able to hold that ground. Because see, the ground's going to be contended by the enemy.

Congregation:

Right.



Jimmy Witcher:

The enemy's not just going to move out of the way just because we say so. We've got to move into, and we've got to be trained up. We got to be strong and courageous. We got to be trained up to be ready to engage.

So I want us, this year, to choose a disciplining Father and not a Santa Claus as the image of our God, as one that's going to guide us and direct us and strengthen us.

And so my first point is this, choosing God's discipline is choosing to be strengthened and being prepared to receive the harvest that God has for us. It's preparing us to move in. Denying our flesh and engaging in activities we may find uncomfortable is required for spiritual growth.

Now, here's the baseline, and I encourage all of you to do this. Be in the word every single day. If you're not already in the word, we need to be in the word every day. Just make that your thing. Get up 15, 20 minutes earlier, grab your cup of coffee, grab your Bible. If you need a pattern, you can go to YouVersion. They have all kinds of things you can do there. You can use Biblecast. That's why we do Biblecast, to walk you through. There's lots of different ways. So get in the Bible.

And then also fast and pray as we've been talking about. This is a year of fasting and this is a year of prayer. And I've already talked a little bit about fasting, so I want to talk more about prayer for just a minute.

I believe 2026 is the year we turn the corner in our prayer life like we never have before. And I'm saying this for us as a congregation. I'm not saying that. I mean, there's lots of praying activities that are happening all around, but for Trinity Fellowship, this is a year that we're going to pray like we've never prayed before.

So what is prayer? Prayer is more than just talking to God. It's a heartfelt ongoing way to connect with Him personally. So when we pray, we're connecting relationally to God. Prayer is opening our hearts to God, sharing our thoughts, our needs, our gratitude, and our worship. Prayer is how we communicate with our Heavenly Father, listening for His voice and aligning our lives with His will. Now, prayer can be spoken aloud, it can be spoken silently, or simply a moment of quiet where we seek to be present with God's spirit.

So let's go through, I talked about it a minute ago, this is Matthew 6. Jesus teaches us what it's like to pray. And as I'm teaching on prayer, I want you to think about this. This is us taking wherever your prayer life is today. I believe God wants us to take it to a new level. This is the next level for our prayer life. And so He wants to move us into that. So Matthew 6:7, Jesus says, "When you pray, don't babble on and on as the Gentiles do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. Don't be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask Him."

Now, this is fascinating to me. Jesus, God, is telling us how to pray to God the Father. And He's saying, "You need to pray. And this is how you pray." And we're going to find out later He means this daily. In fact, I think Jesus means multiple times a day. Paul even takes it further and says, "Pray without ceasing." And so we're to pray regularly. But Jesus is saying at the top, when we pray, don't be like those who are just given a list of all the things they need because God, your Heavenly Father, already knows what you need before you ask Him.

So if He already knows what we need before we ask Him, what's the point in prayer? Or let me say that another way. The point of prayer then is not to get our needs met. The point of prayer is not to get our needs met. That doesn't mean we don't bring up those needs, we'll talk about that in just a minute. But the point of prayer is not so we can get something from God. And I think that's a lot of the reasons why we don't have very active prayer lives or sometimes our prayer lives struggle, because we tend to not pray unless we're in trouble. We tend to not pray unless things are difficult or we see something that's



missing. And so we see it as an opportunity to change God's mind on something or to get something from God. And Jesus says upfront, "It's not it at all. God already knows what you need before you ask Him."

Then why do we pray? The primary purpose of prayer is connection and relationship with God. The primary purpose of prayer is our connection and relationship with God. It's to strengthen our relationship with God the Father. It's for us to ask Him, "Okay, hey, I'm going through this hard thing right here. Is this a coaching session? Have I done something wrong? Are you leading me through? What's going on here?" And God's going to go, "You've got this." "But God, last week it was lighter." "I know. I added a little more weight this week. You got it. Go get 'em." "Or is there something I need to change? Is there something?" Prayer is about engaging in this relationship with our Heavenly Father.

And it's the things that when we recognize them, that maybe we're going through something challenging, we're asking God to get us out of that challenge. He knows what we need before we already ask Him. And so freedom from the challenge is not what He wants to give. Maybe what He wants to give is strength to get through that challenge.

Congregation:

That's right.

Jimmy Witcher:

To strengthen us, to grow us. And so He already knows what we need. And so in prayer, as we're engaging with Him, we begin to learn, what are we doing in here? What's happening in this moment, in this relationship with God? And He begins to come in as our father and guide us and direct us. The primary purpose of prayer is connection.

All right, let's get into the prayer. You probably know this prayer. It's what we would call the Lord's Prayer, but Jesus gives us this as a pattern. So this is Matthew 6:9. He says, "Pray like this. Our Father in heaven may your name be kept holy." Now, this is a beautiful start to a prayer. And for Jesus to pray this way, when His disciples said, "Teach us how to pray," and He began by saying, "Our Father who is in heaven," this would have blown their mind because they didn't pray to the Father. They prayed to Yahweh or they prayed to the Lord. They prayed to God. But Jesus is saying, "No, it's not just some distant entity. It's not just some being that created the universe. This is your Heavenly Father that you're praying to. There's warmth in that. There's love in that."

And one of the things we have to get over is sometimes our earthly father is maybe not a great example for us. If our earthly father was absent, we sometimes think the Heavenly Father is absent or distant. If our earthly father was harsh, we think God is harsh. We've got to get past that. And that's why Jesus came to show us who the Heavenly Father is.

Congregation:

Yes.

Jimmy Witcher:

To show us His goodness, to show us how good He is so that we can engage with the Heavenly Father knowing He is good. He loves us, he cares about us, and He invites us into this loving, caring relationship. The same relationship that He has with His son, Jesus, is what He invites us into.

And so we engage every prayer. We begin each prayer time with this recognition. Father, who lives in heaven, you're awesome. Thank you for your love for me. Thank you for being my father. I trust you. I



lean into you. I receive you. It sets the nature of our relationship as we engage. And Jesus reveals the true nature of the Heavenly Father to us.

So if you want to know who the Heavenly Father is, just look to Jesus. Look to Jesus who went to the cross. Look to Jesus who gave up His life. Look to Jesus who for the joy set before Him endured the punishment on the cross so that we could be in relationship. That's who the Heavenly Father is.

So when things can feel challenging or difficult, we know this is what's happening. We've got a Heavenly Father who is in complete control, because He's the Father. He's in the heaven. He's in control of it all. And He's here to impart to us His goodness.

All right. Jesus continues. This is Matthew 6:10 now. After praying, Heavenly Father, honoring His name, recognizing who He is for us, He says this, "May your kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

Now, a lot of times when we're saying the Lord's Prayer, if you say the Lord's Prayer, we rush past this part. But I would say this is key in framing everything, because here's the thing. When we remember that it's not about me, it's about Him. It's not about what I want, it's what He wants. It's not about my life, it's His life. It's not about my kingdom, it's His kingdom. And so we begin our prayer times with this acknowledgement of who God is.

Congregation:

That's right.

Jimmy Witcher:

And then it's about His kingdom. So when we say, "It's your kingdom come soon, your will to be done on earth," I'm basically saying, "I am yielding my will, I'm yielding what I think is right, and I'm leaning into you, the creator, the author and creator of the universe." The perfecter of our faith, the one who knows everything, we lean into Him and He gives us all. So we first of all recognize it's not about me. I am not the center of the universe. Can we just say amen to that?

Congregation:

Amen.

Jimmy Witcher:

We are not the center of the universe. Y'all didn't say that with a lot of confidence now.

Congregation:

Amen.

Jimmy Witcher:

I'm just here to tell you, we're not the center of the universe.

Congregation:

That's right.

That's right. That's right. Come on.

Jimmy Witcher:



Jesus is. God is. Matthew 6:33, "Seek the kingdom of God above all else," Jesus says. "And live righteously and He will give you everything you need." When we seek His kingdom first, His result is everything that we need. May not be everything that we want, but it'll be every single thing that we need as we seek His kingdom.

So the key to being 100% successful in prayer is to find out what God's will is and pray that. See, sometimes we come to God making a list of like, "This is what we would like. This is the outcome we would want." Kim and I've been praying for something for almost a year and we've been very clear about our prayer, and God just keeps, best I can tell, ignoring us. He's got a whole other plan. Now, along the way, He's provided all along the way. I mean, it's amazing. We can see it. It's just not what we wanted. Why? Well, He's got His will. It's about His kingdom, His will. Not my will, not my desires. Trusting in Him.

And can I just tell you, sometimes when we're going through challenges, when I recognize that God has a plan and God's in control, it makes going through the hardship easier. Let me go back to CT when we were doing some physical training there. When I just trusted him instead of whining and complaining to him, I realized that he has my best interest in heart and he's just trying to make me stronger and healthier, what I actually asked him to do for me.

Congregation:

That's right.

Jimmy Witcher:

Same thing with God. "When we pray God's will, we partner with God, releasing His authority on the earth in a new way." This is one of the reasons why prayer is so important. Because when we pray and we're praying God's will, His will ... How is God's will done in heaven? Does God say, "This is what we're going to do," and an angel goes, "I don't think that's a good idea." No, God's will is absolute. And so when we pray, "Your kingdom come, your will be done," we're basically saying, "I want your absolute will as it is in heaven to be done in this moment, in this situation in my life." 100% guaranteed that it's going to happen and that God is going to move.

Then Jesus does turn His attention to our needs. Matthew 6:11, "Give us today the food we need." In other words, God, I need our daily bread. Would you give us what I need for today? Now, the key on this is it's daily bread. We know we lack maturity when we go days, weeks, or months without praying because we don't recognize our needs. This is one of the reasons why it's sometimes hard for us to engage with God, because we get by without recognizing what our real needs are. And when we recognize, "No, God, I need daily bread. I need daily health. I need daily maturity. I need daily wisdom." What do we need for today? And we pray for that.

Now, why is it given in daily allotments? Because remember, God already knows what we need. It's not about us getting our needs met, it's about us acknowledging our dependence upon God every single day. God already knows what we need, He's already got it taken care of. When we trust in Him, He's got it lined out for us. Our daily bread is just saying, "God, I just acknowledge today that these are the needs that we have. These are the needs for my kids. These are the needs for my spouse. These are the needs for my family. These are needs at my work. This is what I need." And we pray for daily bread to connect with our Heavenly Father each day and be reminded that He has us covered.

See, the thing about praying for daily bread, it's about comfort, security, and hope in our dependence upon God. It allows us to engage with Him.



And then Jesus turns immediately from our physical needs, getting our daily bread, and He turns now to our spiritual condition. Matthew 6:12, "And forgive us our sins as we have forgiven those who sin against us." In other words, one of the things God wants us to do, Jesus wants us to do every single day, is deal with our heart condition. How's my heart? These are the needs that I have. How am I doing spiritually? As David said in Psalm 139, "Search me and know me. Is there any anxious? Is there anything in me that needs to come out?" So this is an opportunity for us to pray.

And Jesus is so serious about this issue of sin and forgiveness that He reinforces it just a couple of verses later. He says this in Matthew 6:14, "If you forgive those who sin against you, your Heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins." That ought to just weigh on us just a little bit.

Congregation:

That's right.

That's right.

Jimmy Witcher:

This is a big thing that He's saying. Jesus is so serious about forgiveness that He tells us to ask God to limit His forgiveness of us to the measure we forgive others. And so it just tells us we got to deal with our hearts. So we deal with our needs, we deal with our heart.

And then finally we turn to our spiritual fortitude. Matthew 6:13, "And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one." Now, God would never lead us to temptation, but this acknowledges that there's an evil one. That the devil is out there standing on our land and interfering with the promises that God has in our life. And so by engaging with prayer, we're basically saying, "God, don't lead us into temptation, but help us to overcome the evil one. Help us to kick the devil's tail, especially when it is landing on the promised land that you have promised to me and to my family. And I'm going to get there by prayer, by fasting, by giving, by doing these things that you have called us to do." Praying for strength is recognizing that we are not alone, God is always with us.

I just want to encourage us, friends, 2026 is a year of spiritual development and training as God prepares us for the harvest He has in store. But to receive that harvest, we have to choose to be strong and courageous. We have to take a new grip with our tired hands and strengthen our weak knees. We have to grow up. We have to develop the habit of prayer. And I want to encourage us in a couple of things. We've created a new journey just for Zion.

So here's what I want to challenge us to do as a church. If you go to tfc.org or if you pull up the Trinity Fellowship app and you just go to Journeys, and you can either search, it'll probably be the first journey there. There's a journey that says Zion 2026 Prayer. And it's a seven-day journey. It'll take you less than 10 minutes a day. And if you will sign up for that journey, and you can open it up every day, it'll give us all a prayer to pray each day. It's something I wrote this last week. So we're all in this together. We're all praying the same thing. Now, just imagine for just a minute, the impact in the spiritual world, if every individual of Trinity Fellowship Church is praying the same prayer every single day.

Congregation:

Amen.

Jimmy Witcher:



It's coming together in unity for what God is doing. And if we engage in our fasting and if we worship and we come to the prophetic night and we come to the worship night and we engage, here's what I believe, it's training us up to strengthen us so that we're going to be ready for the harvest that God has.

Congregation:

That's right.

Jimmy Witcher:

I'm so excited about what God's going to do this year. But I just feel that if we don't get ourselves ready, there's an opportunity that we could miss it. But we got to be willing to embrace His training, His discipline, His strengthening us along the way so that we're not the kinds of Christians that are just coming to God, giving Him a list of things that we would like to see happen, but we become a trained up army who is strong and courageous and is ready to go after the promised land that God has for each one of us.

This is an incredible time. And as we're looking to strengthen our prayer muscles, I want to encourage us to pray, to join together and pray together. So let's begin by praying now.

Father, we're just thankful for you. God, I'm thankful that you are our Heavenly Father. And even as we come to you this morning, we acknowledge your goodness, your greatness, and the way that you love and care for each one of us. So Holy Spirit, just would you release to us a new, fresh knowledge of how much God loves us and how much He cares for us. And Father, we pray your kingdom come, your will be done. On our lives, in our neighborhoods, in our workplaces, in our schools, in our communities, in our church, in our friendships, in our relationships, your kingdom come, your will be done. And God, we have needs. All of us have needs, things that we need. We just pray that you would yield your provision. Thank you for the way that you take care of us.

But God, one of the greatest needs we need is we need to be strengthened. So we ask for the courage to allow you to strengthen us in this season. And God, let us have eyes to see that as we go through some challenging times, that it's you developing us and strengthening us for what you have in the future. God, let us not have weak knees and feeble hands, but let us be those who are strengthened. God, shift our hearts. Let us be those who are quick to forgive, full of the joy that you give us. Quick to release those who have hurt us or slow to be offended. And when we do get offended, quick to forgive. And God, lead us non-intent temptation, protect us from the evil one, and show us how we can go stand and possess the promise that you have.

And God, I pray for a release as we partner with you for a release of the harvest of blessing, the harvest of new territory, the harvest of expansion that you have for us this year as we engage with you. So thank you for what you're doing.

So just receive now from the Holy Spirit. And I want to pray from one other group and you haven't yet made Jesus the Lord of your life. If that's true, just pray this with me. It's the best way to start the year. Just say, "Jesus, I give you my life. Thank you for dying on the cross to forgive my sin. I yield my life to you. I believe that God raised you from the dead on the third day, proving that you are the son of God, and I want you to guide and direct me this year and for the rest of my life. In Jesus' name, amen."

Congregation:

Amen.

Jimmy Witcher:



Amen. If you just prayed that last prayer with me, will you get out your cell phone, text the word decision to 88787. Happy New Year. We love you guys. We'll see you tonight with Chuck Pierce. God bless.

Daniel Proffitt:

First, we're going to take communion together. So if you'd get the elements out, we've got team members coming down the aisle. If you didn't get this when you came in the room, would you raise your hand real high? I want to make sure everyone has it that wants to participate with us. And as you prepare that, will you take the bread out with me? Let's hold that up together.

Jesus, we remember you and we thank you for your sacrifice. We thank you that you bring us into the family of God together. We're now part of your body, so strengthen our bodies. As we remember, your body was broken so that ours could be healed. Strengthen us as we go from here. Let's take the bread.

Now, let's prepare the cup. Let's hold that up together. Jesus, we pray your blood over each area of our life. We pray healing where we need healing, strengthening in our mind, our heart, and our spirit. Jesus, thank you that you gave your life, allowing your blood to be poured out so we could become a part of your family. Let's take the cup together.

When you get a free hand, can we celebrate Jesus one more time? A couple announcements for you as the prayer teams make their way down front. If you need prayer, please come forward. We'd love to pray with you. Also, Chuck Pierce is going to be here tonight. We'll be in the worship center at 6:00. Come join us. It'll be exciting. Would you stand to your feet with me? Chuck Pierce also has some books down at the bookstore available. If you want to grab any of those, those are on the front counter.

I'd love to pray a blessing over you and your new year. Father, thanks. Thank you again for Jesus. Jesus, would you empower us through your spirit? Give us strength, boldness, give us vision for where you want us to be stronger going into this year. And Father, give us a resolve to allow you to strengthen us spiritually, mentally, physically, emotionally. In Jesus' name, amen.

Congregation:

Amen.

Daniel Proffitt:

Good to see you. If you need prayer, come on down for a prayer.

