

Dream Big, Pray Big, Live Big
Part Two – Pray Big

- *We need to hear what God is saying—dream big (revelation)*
- *We need to pray into what God is saying—pray big (habitation)*
- *We need to act upon what God is saying—live big (proclamation)*
- *As we walk with the Lord and daily spend time in prayer and in the Word and fellowship with other believers, He will impart to us dreams and visions. Some will be short term and others will be lifelong dreams but all of them will be framed in the ultimate dream—the resurrection.*
- *Last week we focused on how to dream big.*
- *Today we want to focus on how to pray big!*
- *Prayer is essential for us to see our dreams become a reality.*
- *The most basic definition of prayer is simply talking to God.*
- *There are many different aspects of prayer and each aspect is essential for us to have a vibrant and overcoming spiritual life.*
- *There are prayers which express our gratitude and thanksgiving to God. There are prayers of praise. There are prayers of worship. There are petitionary prayers.*
- *Thanksgiving magnifies the wonderful things that God has done for us and enables us to enjoy the great blessings He has bestowed upon us. “Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases,” (Psalm 103:2-3).*
- *If our prayers do not include thanksgiving we will find ourselves dissatisfied with what we have no matter how abundantly God has blessed us.*
- *Praise magnifies the greatness of God’s power and might and enables us to be filled with an awe of all He does. “It is good to give thanks to the LORD, And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning, And Your faithfulness every night.” (Psalm 92:1-2).*
- *Worship magnifies God Himself and enables us to fully surrender our lives to Him.*
- *The Hebrew word for worship means to bend the knee; to bow down, to submit. Worship enables us to experience the wonderful peace and rest by fully submitting to His will. Through worship we can enjoy the deepest level of fellowship with God. “Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker. For*

He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand.”
(Psalm 95:6-7a).

- *For the purpose of exploring how to dream big we will look at prayer in terms of petitionary prayer.*
- *The power of prayer is seen throughout the Bible as we witness men and women calling out to God and sharing their hearts and their needs.*
- *Almost nothing happens without prayer and without prayer our dreams, aspirations, and needs will go unanswered and unfulfilled.*
- *No one has every been saved without prayer because it is the prayer of faith as one confesses their sins, repents, and turns to Christ that they receive salvation. “For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”” (Hebrews 10:13).*
- *It was through intercessor prayer that Peter was miraculously delivered from prison and certain death by an angelic visitation. “Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.” (Acts 12:5). Prayer was vital to Peter’s deliverance, and a lack of prayer would have resulted in quite a different outcome.*
- *Apostle Paul encouraged us to continually pray and cultivate an attitude of prayer in our hearts. “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).*
- *What is the purpose of petitionary prayer and why do we pray?*
- *Our answer to this question will determine how or even if we do pray.*

Matthew 6:8 (NKJV)

⁸“Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.

- *Some people pray as if God doesn’t know their needs and prayer becomes a list to inform God of their needs.*
- *Prayer that is focused on trying to inform God of the situation will result in prayer that becomes mundane and devoid of faith.*

Luke 12:32 (NKJV)

³²“Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

- *Some people pray as if they have to overcome God's reluctance to help, or save, or bless. Their prayer sounds more like pleadings to an uncaring master than petitions to a loving Father.*

Matthew 6:7 (NKJV)

⁷And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

- *Some people see prayer as a means of winning God's favour so He will answer their requests. Prayer becomes a meaningless religious ritual. Prayer becomes mechanical—comprised of a mixture of superstition and repetition.*

Matthew 7:10–11 (NKJV)

¹⁰Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent?

¹¹If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

- *Some see prayer as going to a “divine vending machine” to have their requests granted.*
- *People who see God as a divine vending machine say things like, “Be careful what you ask for,” as if God just mindlessly gives us anything we ask for, or even worse as a cruel prankster who gives us things that would harm us. If we ask for an egg, God won't give us a scorpion. (Luke 11:12).*
- *The Bible teaches us that our God is a good Father who gives His children only good things.*
- *In the Lord's Prayer found in Matthew 6:10 we find a clue to the answer of why to pray petitionary prayers. “Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.”*

We can learn three things from this one verse:

- 1. God's will is being done perfectly in Heaven.*
- 2. God's will is not yet being done perfectly on earth.*
- 3. Through prayer we can see God's will done on the earth.*

- *Some Christians are afraid if they surrender fully to God and say, “Your will be done,” then God will ask them to do things which will be painful or very difficult. However, by surrendering they will enter into the most wonderful and beautiful thing in the universe—the will of God! His will is “good, acceptable, and perfect.” (Romans 12:2).*

- *When we pray, “Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven,” our prayers are directed to see God’s will done on earth. The question is, “Why does God need us to pray for His will to be accomplished?”*
- *Since God is good, all-powerful, and all-knowing, why doesn’t He just do what He knows needs to be done? The answer to this question begins in Genesis.*

Genesis 1:26 (NKJV)

²⁶ Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

- *“let them have dominion over...all the earth” When God created man, He gave him authority over all the earth. Therefore authority over the earth does not lie with God or Satan, but with man. God has given believers authority over Satan because of Jesus Christ’s victory.*
- *Psalm 115:16 reiterates this principle that God has given dominion over the earth to mankind. “The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD’S; But the earth He has given to the children of men.”*
- *Although God gave man authority over the earth it does not mean that God created him with the power to fulfill all that he wishes. There is a distinct difference between power and authority.*
- *Power would describe the ability and strength to carry out all that one desires to do. Man is a limited, created being, meant to rely on God’s power and strength. Man has authority to chose who will rule over him—either the flesh, Satan, or the Lord Jesus Christ.*
- *When we pray, “Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven,” it is an act of agreement as we exercise our authority to see God’s power released in our lives and in the circumstances around us.*
- *Throughout the Bible from Genesis to Revelation we see the theme of agreement.*
- *As we study the Bible, we find many examples of people either choosing to agree with the lies of Satan or the truth of God’s Word.*
- *Each person has the choice of whose word he or she is going to agree with and those choices will determine whose will is done in their lives.*

- *Our choices will not change the outcome of God's ultimate and eternal will for mankind, but our choices definitely have a bearing on how God's will is worked out in our personal lives and the lives of those around us.*

Joshua 24:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

- *“choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve” We have the authority to decide whose power will be manifest in our lives; either the flesh, the devil, or God. We have the freedom to choose, so choose wisely!*
- *“But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” Joshua chose to agree with God. As a result God used him mightily to fulfill His will in the nation of Israel and to vanquish God's enemies. Joshua served God and God's people by bringing Israel into the Promised Land of God's purposes.*
- *The first time we see the importance of agreement is in Genesis, Chapter 3.*
- *In this story we see the spiritual battle which took place as Adam and Eve decided with whom they would agree.*
- *Adam and Eve chose to agree with Satan's words and gave him “building rights.”*
- *We can see the importance of agreement and how that one choice changed the course of history for mankind with devastating consequences.*
- *For Satan to persuade Eve to turn away from God's Word and agree with his lie he had to distort the Word of God in Eve's mind.*
- *We must first have a strong confidence and clear understanding of God's Word. Then we must choose to agree with the truth by acting upon it.*
- *One way we act in agreement with God's Word is through prayer.*
- *As we pray God's Word, we reinforce to ourselves His faithfulness and His will. Through prayer we maintain, grow, and strengthen our relationship with God, which is our greatest need. Through prayer the promises found in God's Word becomes manifest in our lives.*

- *We don't have the power in our words to change our lives, but we do have the authority by prayer and by our words to choose whose power will be manifested in our lives and on the earth.*
- *"Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" is not a theological statement, but a request to God, as one having authority on the earth to see God's Kingdom and will established on the earth as it is already perfectly manifested in Heaven.*
- *God will not change us unless we come into agreement with Him.*
- *Jesus Christ's message, the message throughout the Bible, and the message of the gospel is about agreement—"repent and believe."*
- *Repent—stop agreeing with the sin nature and the lies of Satan.*
- *Believe—come into agreement with God and His Word.*
- *Throughout history God has been looking for men and women to come into agreement with Him, so His kingdom would come and His will would be done on earth as it is done in Heaven. "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him." (2 Chronicles 16:9).*
- *Men and women who have come into agreement with the will of God have been used by God to bring forth His kingdom and have impacted the history of mankind for the glory of God.*

Genesis 22:16–18 (NKJV)

¹⁶and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son—

¹⁷blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies.

¹⁸In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

- *Abraham's act of obedience and faith by offering up his son Isaac to God resulted in God's promise: "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed."*
- *Abraham's willingness to agree with God's will resulted in the Kingdom of Heaven being manifested on the earth and God's plan of salvation being made manifest to all mankind.*

Galatians 3:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as of many, but as of one, “And to your Seed,” who is Christ.

- *Abraham exercised his authority as Isaac’s father when he offered up his son Isaac. In reality, he opened the door so God could use His offspring to bring salvation to all mankind. It was through Isaac’s descendants that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was born into the world.*
- *God was looking for a man who would be willing to submit his own will to the will of God, so God’s plan of salvation could be fulfilled.*
- *When Abraham gave Isaac to God, he in fact also gave Isaac’s offspring to God, so God had the right to have His Son, Jesus Christ, incarnated as a man through the seed of Abraham to die for our sins. That is why God said, “because you have done this thing all the nations of the earth will be blessed.”*

Hebrews 2:16 (ESV)

¹⁶For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham.

- *Why did Jesus Christ, the Son of God, have to be incarnated as a man to be the Saviour of all mankind? Why couldn’t He have just have appeared as God or in the form of an angel?*
- *Part of the reason Jesus had to come as man is because He had to die in our place for our sins. However, there is another very important reason.*
- *When Jesus Christ came as a human being, as a descendant of Abraham, He could then exercise the authority God had given to man.*
- *Jesus Christ, as the Son of Man, came into full agreement with the will of God so the Father’s will could be done on earth as it is done in Heaven and so His kingdom could come upon the earth.*
- *When Jesus Christ came as a man it was the first time in the history of mankind that a man had fully submitted and come into full agreement with the will of God. As a result, Satan was defeated and the way of salvation was opened to all mankind.*
- *Jesus Christ exercised full power as the Son of God and full authority as the Son of Man. The gates of Hell were not able to prevail and the result was the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ.*
- *Jesus blew the doors off of Hell as He was resurrected. The gates of Hell could not contain Him!*

- *Now through prayer we can come into agreement with God to see His kingdom come and His will done.*
- *As Daniel studied the writings of the prophet Jeremiah, he realized that the Babylonian captivity of Israel would end after seventy years. “In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, by descent a Mede, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans—in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, perceived in the books the number of years that, according to the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.” (Daniel 9:1-2).*
- *Daniel’s response to this revelation was not to passively sit back, but to intercede. He understood that God had revealed this to him through studying the Scriptures in order for him to pray and intercede to see the God’s will for Israel fulfilled. “Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes. I prayed to the LORD my God and made confession, saying, “O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments.” (Daniel 9:3-4).*
- *“Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: “Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.”” (Isaiah 6:8). In this chapter, Isaiah describes how the Lord propelled Isaiah’s prophetic ministry to such an extent that he received some of the most wonderful and amazing Messianic prophecies found in the Bible. Isaiah had a vision of the throne room of God and then he “overheard” the Lord asking who was willing to be God’s mouthpiece. Isaiah responded by agreeing with God’s will and saying, “Here am I! Send me.”*
- *When our hearts are moved for the lost, our first response is not preaching the gospel, or evangelistic outreach programs, but prayer. “Then He said to them, “The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.” (Luke 10:2).*
- *Prayer is not complicated. It is simply asking God to intervene. Many times our prayer requests can be short and simple by letting God know what is on our hearts. “For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers.” (Romans 1:9).*
- *Other times our petitions can be deep intercessor prayers where we labour, travail, and wait on the Lord until we see breakthroughs in people’s lives or specific situations. “Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men.” (1 Timothy 2:1).*
- *Sometimes we may not know exactly what we need to pray for, but as we pray out the things God has put on our hearts He fills in the blanks. We just have to be willing to pray. “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask*

or think, according to the power that works in us.” (*Ephesians 3:20*). “Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.” (*Romans 8:26*).

- *Some believers question what the purpose of praying in tongues is if we do not know what we are saying. However, praying in tongues is a perfect example of being willing to simply pray in the spirit and come into agreement with God’s will and then let the Holy Spirit give us the words. “For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.” “He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.” (1 Corinthians 14:2,4).*
- *The moment we prayed and repented, received Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour, and were born again, something happened that is marvelous beyond description.*
- *Jesus Christ entered and joined with our spirit in the new birth and the kingdom of God literally is within us!*
- *The moment we asked Jesus Christ to save us, the answer to the prayer, “Your kingdom come” was fulfilled in one aspect, in that His kingdom came down and is within us—in our reborn spirit. One aspect of His will was fulfilled—He saved us!*
- *Now that we are saved we must continue to pray to see the furthering of His will done in our lives and of those around us.*
- *For our prayers to be effective we need to be grounded in the Word and be sensitive to the Holy Spirit, because through the Word of God and the leading of the Holy Spirit, God will reveal His will to us so we can pray in agreement with His will. The Holy Spirit’s leading will always agree with God’s Word.*
- *When our prayers line up with God’s will then we can be confident we will see God’s will released in our lives and those around us. “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.” (1 John 5:14-15).*
- *We can come boldly into His throne of grace. (Hebrews 4:16). Don’t even knock, come right in!*
- *When we pray our will and expect God to come into agreement with us we will be sadly disappointed.*

- *When we pray according to God's will, our prayers will be like well-placed arrows hitting their intended target. They will bring forth eternal results.*
- *If we do not come into agreement with God's will in prayer, we will not see God's will done in our lives.*
- *Some Christians don't seek to or even know God's will. Others fail to pray into God's will, even when it is revealed to them.*
- *Some Christians speak about freedom, but fail to agree with God in prayer until that freedom is fully manifest.*
- *Every revival recorded in the Bible or in the history of the Church, was birthed through people waiting on God and continuing to pray, "Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" until it was fulfilled.*
- *The birth of the Church on the day of Pentecost, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on that day, and the first revival meeting of the Church, were birthed in prayer. Jesus' disciples spent ten days in prayer waiting in the Upper Room for the promise from the Father. "These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers." (Acts 1:14).*
- *The angel "also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven." (Acts 1:11). After the disciples witnessed the ascension of Jesus Christ they were so dumbfounded they simply stood gazing up to Heaven. An angel appeared to them and basically said, "Don't just stand there but go back to Jerusalem and begin to pray!"*
- *The culmination of all the events that led up to the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Saviour of the world was not the sole result of Abraham's faith and obedience. Many men and women prayed and interceded during the centuries to see the will of God advance.*
- *We see in Scripture men and women who advanced the will of God, such as Moses, faithful Ruth, Boaz, David, and the prophets who all had a part to play in seeing the fulfillment of the birth of Jesus Christ.*
- *Let us set our hearts to continually pray, "Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven," and pray into those things God has put on our hearts or those needs we see waiting to be met.*
- *Let us redouble our prayer life both personally and corporately to pray for revival and the glory of God to be manifest in our midst to bring glory to the name of Jesus Christ so many will come and find salvation and freedom.*

- ***“Your Kingdom Come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” defines the purpose of our lives.***
- ***Prayer is the first and most important thing we can do to see the fulfillment of God’s will done on earth as it is in Heaven.***
- ***Prayer is the difference between seeing God’s will fulfilled in our lives and failing to see the fulfillment of God’s will in our lives.***
- ***The portion of Jesus’ prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane that most closely relates to “Your will be done on earth as it is done in Heaven” is “Nevertheless not My will, but Yours be done.” (Luke 22:42).***
- ***However, when we pray “Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven,” prayer becomes a surrender of our will and our lives for His purposes and His plans to be fulfilled. In prayer we surrender our weakness to the greatness of God.***
- ***“Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” provides divine purpose for our lives. This allows every event and experience to be evaluated from this criteria—“How can I see God’s will fulfilled in this situation?” Prayer should be our first response to God’s calling on our lives for guidance and direction.***