

Pray in Faith

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Bible Text: John 15:7
Preached On: Monday, February 12, 2018

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You were designed, you were created, you were fabricated to live in freedom. The problem is bondage comes when we decide that we know better how to live this life than God does. Bondage occurred initially in the Garden of Eden and bondage occurs in your life today when we decide, "God, I've got this. I can do this on my own. I'm smart enough." But as we just said, you were designed to live in freedom and today you have the opportunity to whatever is keeping you in bondage, the Lord can take those shackles and he can break them if you let him. He can give the freedom that you're designed to live and he can provide it if you will allow him to do so.

Let's pray.

Lord, today we confess that we are people naturally gravitated to bondage. Lord, we think we're smarter than you are. We think we are wiser than you are. We listen to voices that are not your voice and we allow them to be the voices of truth in our life. God, we confess that our lack of freedom isn't because you don't desire it, but because we have a propensity to crave bondage more than freedom. God, help us today to trust you. Help us today to allow you to break the chains of the bondage of our lives so that we can live this life the way you designed it to be lived, a life of freedom. It is in the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

This morning, I want to encourage you to open your Bibles to the Gospel of John 15. As you are turning to John 15, that's where we're going to spend the majority of our time today but also at the end of the message going to spend a little bit of our time in the book of Acts 4, just a few pages to the right. But as you're turning to John 15, if you are a first-time guest or visitor with us, or maybe you haven't had the privilege of being with us in a while, we are studying, we are walking through kind of this journey together as a church family and we are asking a very strategic important question: what does a disciple of Jesus Christ look like? Now it sounds like a very simple question, the problem is we've got thousands of books, millions of different opinions of everybody thinking that it looks like this, it looks like that, it ought to be this, it ought to be that, but what we're doing is opening up the word of God and seeing what does the word of God say specifically. What did Jesus Christ say that a disciple of his looked like?

We began with Luke 9:23 where Jesus made this statement. He said, "If any man come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me." That's kind of the whole theme of this study. Then we looked at John 15:5 where Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches. He that abides in me and I in him shall bear much fruit for apart from me you can do nothing." In other words, in order to be a follower, a disciple of Jesus, Jesus has to be the center of everything in our lives. Last week we talked about how do we get grounded in our faith. What keeps us from wavering with every opinion and every poll that is taken. You know, the book of James 1:8 says, "a double minded man is unstable in all of his ways." We saw that Jesus taught us in John 8, "if we continue in his word, we are his disciples indeed. We shall know the truth and the truth will set us free."

So when we look at what does a disciple of Jesus Christ look like, we are centered upon Jesus, we are grounded in his word, and today we are going to talk about the power that you and I have as believers in Jesus Christ, the power, the access we have to that power through something that sounds so simple yet is so profound: it's called prayer. We are going to discover today that by our spending time with the Lord, hearing from the Lord, speaking to the Lord, that this is how we have access to, this is how we have the availability to us of the power of God moving and working in our lives.

So today in John 15, a very simple verse but yet profound. Jesus makes this statement,

7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, you shall ask what you will, and it shall be done unto you.

Not a whole lot of words but yet a very profound statement from the mouth of Jesus himself just hours before the crucifixion, just days before his eventual resurrection from the grave. He said, "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, you can ask what you will or wish and it will be given unto you."

What an incredible promise, ask whatever we want, it will be given unto us, but before we talk about the promises of God through prayer, we need to talk about the prerequisites of prayer. Now, today again we have the assistance of our children's ministry that are coming alongside of this study and helping us out, reminding us that oftentimes it is the posture of prayer, oftentimes it is the position of prayer of surrendering ourselves to the thing and to the person of God that so makes prayer effective and a powerful means in our life.

What are the prerequisites? Notice what Jesus said. We're just going to take this verse phrase by phrase today. He says, "If you abide in me." Prerequisite number one is personal. In other words, in order for your prayer life, in order for your communication with the Lord to exhibit power, you have to have a relationship with him. Now think about this, those of you who are raising children: can you imagine what would happen if you're just walking down the road someday and some random stranger, some kid comes up to you and says, "Hey, can I talk you into paying for my college tuition, please?" You'd be like, "Who are you and why are you asking me such a ridiculous question?" But

yet when your own child comes to you and says, "I have dreams. I have aspirations. I have some desires in life." What do you do? You begin to sit down, you begin to discuss, you begin to strategize how can this happen. What's the difference in those two children? The difference isn't their age. The difference isn't their dreams. The difference is their relationship with the person whom they are having the conversation with. The Bible makes it very clear that when you and I believe upon Jesus Christ, according to John 1:12, we become the sons of God. We become the children of God. In fact, Romans 8 takes it a little bit further, it says we become his adopted children, joint heirs with him. So when we come to that place in our life where we recognize we've messed up, we recognize we've sinned, and we believe that Jesus Christ alone is the answer to our sin problem, we ask him to save us, we ask him to forgive us, we enter into a relationship that oftentimes in Scripture is pictured as a child to a parent.

You see, the first prerequisite is that it's got to be personal. Here's the problem with that: oftentimes we see that from a relational standpoint but we also need to see it from a "fellowship" standpoint. Allow me to illustrate what I mean. I have three children in my home. I grew up the child in a home, I think we all get that illustration, but there are times where unfortunately, and I think we see this in our lives, where my children, and by the way, let me explain it this way. Do you know how to spell dad? ATM. That's how you spell dad. That they see me, and I think I did this as a child too, as some great cosmic ATM machine, so to speak; that all you have to do is walk up to it, push the right code in, and it spits out what you want. That's not how God operates. In fact, sometimes we think, "Well, I can live the way I want to live, do what I want to do. He's God, he has to give me what I ask for." Try doing that in your home. Try doing it when your kid hasn't listened to you in a week, hasn't done anything you've asked, and has gone completely contrary to everything that you've asked of them and they come up to you and say, "Oh, by the way, can I?" What's your response? "I don't think so. In other words, you have not exhibited the behavior, you have not exhibited the attitude worthy of me blessing you right now."

It works spiritually too. You see, that prerequisite is not just the fact that you are his child and somehow it's owed to you, and I've got news for all of us: we are not owed anything. That's why it's called grace. That means receiving that which we do not deserve. But God is not some great cosmic ATM machine where we just go and push the right buttons and somehow in some way he has to give us every wish and wile of our life. There is a prerequisite, a relationship with him and fellowship of doing as he has commanded in our lives.

You see, that's where the parameters come in. Oftentimes we look at this concept of prayer and we think about the potential of prayer, the power of prayer but there are some parameters as a prerequisite. You know, when God desired to reveal himself to humanity, those of you who have somewhat of a theological propensity as far as some big words and such, we call this revelation. I mean, how does God show himself? How does God communicate to his creation? Typically we take the concept of revelation and we divide it into two various constructs. Number one is called general revelation. General revelation is that God has revealed himself to his creation, specifically to humanity, in a way that it doesn't matter where you are, it doesn't matter what your background is, what your first

languages, where you happen to reside, that you can recognize that there is a God and you are not him. In fact, in Romans 1 it says that through creation, the Lord has revealed himself to us so that we are without excuse, and I have people all the time come to me and say, "Well, I don't see God in that." One of my first suggestions is, "Well, then look up. Look up at the creation around you. Look at all that is up there and it's the revelation of a creative God. Look around you horizontally at the way in which creation maneuvers. Not just some way out there but around here, and you see the hand of a Creator, you see the hand of creativity." Last but not least, look inside. In fact, a theologian years ago made this great profound statement that inside each and every one of us is a God shaped vacuum that only God can fill.

One of the problems with general revelation, I hear people say this all the time is, "I hear all that but I just don't see God around me." Allow me to illustrate from at least my home. Many of you are aware, there are three young men that are being raised in our home, but oftentimes it's called that we have four boys in our house. Does that communicate, ladies? And I don't know what it is about the male gender but we really struggle with finding things. I mean, we do. Ladies, I don't know how you do it, you can find anything, anytime, anywhere. You've got that. But guys, I'm telling you, in our home and, by the way, I'm guilty as charged. It's not just my three boys. I'm one of them. I get it. Is my wife can come in and say, "Hey, I need your help moving the plant that is in the worship center," and we'd be saying, "Where is it? I don't see it. The plant, the plant, oh, the plant." Do you know what I've discovered being a guy and, ladies, forgive me for going that route but maybe it will help you too? One of the things I've discovered being a guy is we don't find things we're not looking for. If we are not looking for it, we don't see it and that's how we are with humanity and the Lord has said, "I have revealed myself to you. I have spoken to you. I have shared with you." And a lot of times because we are so busy looking for something else, we don't notice that he has revealed himself right before our very eyes.

That's general revelation. Then there is what we call special or specific revelation, and what that means is that beyond just the stars in the sky and the trees on the hill and the vacuum inside, is that he has spoken to us very specifically and specially in our lives. In other words, he has communicated to us specific directions and specific things for decisions that we make or opportunities that we have or struggles that we are dealing with, and the most obvious way in which he has done that in our lives is by the very book that you have in your hands.

You know, I have people come to me all the time and say, "Jeff, I just wish that I could hear God speak to me. I just wish that somehow, someday, he would just shout from the heavens and I could hear the exact words that he wants me to hear." Now what I'm about to show you may seem a little bit crude and I apologize if it is, but can I give you an illustration to help you with that problem? If you're saying, "I just wish I could hear God. I wish I would know what he would say to me." Let me show you how you can do this. Are you ready? It's real simple, you open this up and you do this. 1.3 million words that he has given you that cover all types of areas of decisions. Now I know what you're thinking, "But I've got a situation this Thursday at 10 o'clock and it doesn't address that

specific situation at that place with that person." You're right but you look at the characters, you look at the situations, you look at what happens with those that are contained within the Scriptures, and you will find either a prescription or a description for whatever it is you need for guidance and direction in your life.

But here's the thing I want you to hear: when you get on your knees and you begin to call out to the Lord about what you need in life, what you are struggling with in life, his answer is not going to go beyond his word. I've had young people come to me before and I know some of you are thinking I'm making this up. I promise, I'm not. I've had young people come to me and say, "Jeff, we want you to know something, we've been praying about it, I mean, we've been on our knees and God has told us that we can live like we are married before we are ever married." I'm like, "No, you didn't hear from God." "Oh yeah, we were on our knees." You may have been on your knees but God says flee fornication, don't celebrate it. So that's not according to his word. I've had people come to me and say, "Jeff, I have these friends at my work and such and they are so sincere and they are such wonderful people, and I've been praying about them and God has shown me that even though they are of a different faith, that it's all just different roads leading to the same place." That's not in the Bible. The Bible says there is one Mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus. So in other words, when we hit our knees, when we pray, when we call out to the Lord, one of the prerequisites is a relationship with him living as he would desire. The second one is this: he is not going to share with us, show us or reveal to us anything that conflicts with or is contrary to or outside what he has already said to each and every one of us.

Those are the prerequisites so what's the process? Notice what he said, "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask what you will." Notice the personal pronoun there? It's personal, "ask what you will." In fact, in Matthew 6 in what we know as the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus had this scathing comment about those who pray with vain repetition. In other words, they say the same prayer over and over again almost as if it's this lucky rabbit's foot, so to speak.

I remember years ago when I was playing baseball. We were on a losing streak. We hadn't won in several games and our coach was getting frustrated and he believed, he thought that the answer to our losing streak was before every game we would gather as a team and out loud together simultaneously we would recite a very specific prayer that is found in the Bible. Now understand, I don't know hardly anybody in this circle who believed the prayer, much less had a heart for it, but he thought that if we said it over and over and over again, somehow it would convince God for us to win a ballgame. Understand when it says, "ask what you will," it's a relationship. It's not something that is rote and prescribed and said over and over and over again.

You know, this week, guys let me help you out just a little bit, this week is a very important week. Y'all do know what this week is, right? Valentines. I'm married. I want to stay married so I'm prepared for Wednesday. I'm just giving you all a hand, okay? Valentines, we celebrate relationships. I want you to imagine my home for just a moment. Tracy and I have been married almost 22 years. Imagine what would our

relationship look like if every time she dialogued with me, every time she asked me a question, I had the exact same response every time. I mean, just the same response. Same words. Same cadence. Same everything. It doesn't take a theologian to realize that that's not a relationship. No, it's not. That's an arrangement, is what that is. A relationship is a give and a take. You have both a mouth and two ears which means it is a two-way conversation. You cannot rely on the power of prayer, of prayers that have been prayed by others. This is personal, folks. This is you crying out to God saying, "This is what I'm dealing with. This is what I'm struggling with. I need you to be involved in this."

It's personal but there are some parameters. He says, "If you ask what you will." Ask what you wish. Ask what you desire. Do you know what that means the parameters are? Limitless. Limitless. He says, "Ask what you will. Ask what you wish." Notice he does not limit the effectiveness or the ability of our prayer life. He says if you abide in me, we have a relationship, things are working out, you do it according to my word, you can ask me anything you want and it will be given unto you. You know, in Ephesians 3:20 it says, "Unto him," being the Lord, "who is able to do exceedingly abundantly even more than we could think or ask." I think sometimes our limited prayer life is much like our real life where we have a situation, maybe there is somebody in authority over us, maybe there is somebody who has a lot of ability in our lives, and we say, "Well, I just don't think they are interested so I won't try. I just don't see it going my way so I'm not going to." What does the Lord say? Ask what you will and it will be given unto you.

Now, let me share with you the parameters of this. Like I said earlier, God is not the great cosmic ATM a machine, just push the right buttons and it all comes out. In fact, those of you who are walking through the Master Life Bible study, may already be aware of this, but what I'm about to share with you is not only is it contained in that Bible study, I learned what I'm about to share with you in the fourth grade. It was so profound as a nine-year-old, it stuck with me all these years. It says when you pray, use an acronym, it's called the ACTS acronym, A-C-T-S. The A stands for adoration. In other words, when you hit your knees and you are praying before the Lord, the first thing you do is recognize God for who he is. You recognize his attributes, his qualities, his greatness, his grandness, all the different things off who he is. The second thing is the C, that's confession. That's where we cry out to God and we admit we have messed up. We admit we have sinned. We admit that we have strayed. We admit we have rebelled. By the way, if you get to that C part and say, "I don't have anything to confess," then you need to model your life after King David. In Psalm 139:23 and 24 he says, "Show me, O God, my iniquities. Show me how I have strayed and I will repent thereof." So we confess. The T is thanksgiving. This is where you thank God for his mercy, you thank God for his grace, you thank him that in spite of what you just confessed, he still wants a relationship with you. You thank him for even though how you have behaved, he still bestowed blessings upon you. Then there is the S, supplication. It's a big fancy word which means request. That's where you ask what you will. That's where you ask what you wish. That's where you ask what you want.

Let me give you a study that you can do on your own. If you go today or any day, and you present yourself before the Lord, you get in a posture of "prayer" and you begin with

your "wish or will list," it's going to be long. "God, I need this and, God, I need that. It would be really nice about this and really nice about that." But if you begin your prayer by acknowledging who the Lord is and then you confess how you have sinned against him and you thank him for his goodness that is still in your life, all of a sudden your will and your want list gets a little bit shorter because you realize that most of what we will and wish is what our flesh would be satisfied with, not with what the Lord would be content with.

So I want to deal with the promises. We put all of this together, what are the promises that God gives us? He says ask what you will and it will be given unto you. I want you to turn to the right a few pages to the book of Acts 4. Let me set up the scene for you. The book of Acts 2, we have the disciples, in fact, Acts 1 tells us about 120 people, they are gathered in the upper room and guess what they have been doing for seven days? That's right, they had been praying for seven days. But let me give you a little mathematical equation here. They prayed for seven days, Peter preached for three minutes and 3,000 people got saved. Let that settle in today. Just think about that today. They've been praying for seven days, the Holy Spirit descends in chapter 2, 3,000 people get saved and there is the celebration. Well, that celebration soon has some cold water poured upon it because as they live on behalf of Jesus, as they preach on behalf of Jesus, they began to get incarcerated on behalf of Jesus. They began to get persecuted. They are being communicated with verbally and physically that this person of Jesus and his name is not welcome in their community.

By the time you get to the end of chapter 4, you have the apostles, you have the disciples of Jesus Christ, being let go, being released from this incarceration, and as soon they are released, there is a prayer that is offered here in verse 23 of Acts 4 that I want you to hear. I want you to hear the personalness of this. I want you to hear the personal pronouns that are being used, and I want you to notice that this prayer is not found anywhere else in the Bible. In other words, they didn't go back to the book of Numbers and say, "Well, it worked for them, maybe it will work for us." They didn't go back to the prophets and say, "It helped them, maybe it will help us." This is a unique, original, personal conversation with God.

Verse 23, "And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them. And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, you are God, which has made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is: Who by the mouth of your servant David has said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things? The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ. For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done. And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus."

I'm going to stop right there. Notice how personal this prayer is. "You, O God. Us, O God. Look what's happening here. Do you see our situation?" This is personal and then it goes on to communicate here, it says, "behold their threatenings and grant unto us that with all boldness we may speak thy word." I want you to hear what they didn't pray for: they didn't pray, "God, can you take the persecution away?" They didn't say, "O God, could you make us a little more comfortable? O God, could you give us a little more in the bank?" What did they say? "God, we want your word to go forth even greater than it already has." You say, "How did that happen?" Notice the prayer. What did they begin by doing? They acknowledged who the Lord was. They acknowledged how he had moved in their life. They thanked him for the promise of his word and the provision of his word, and then the only request they had was that he would get the honor and he would get the glory.

It's personal but I want you to see the parameters. Look at verse 31, "And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness." Do you know what happened? The building shook. The environment, the physical world around them changed when they prayed.

Then it says that they were filled with the Holy Ghost. Now, that's a whole other sermon in and of itself but let me sum it up. It's not that they got more of the Holy Spirit, it's that the Holy Spirit got more of them. In other words, not only did the building shake, they said, "Okay, we're taking it up a notch. We're even more serious about living for you. We're even more dedicated about living for you."

Then it says that they spoke the word of God with boldness. A few chapters later in Acts 17, it said that the believers in Jesus Christ who were now formally called Christians, it said that they turned the world upside down. The world around them was turned upside down. The people of God lived life with a reckless abandonment and the building shook. Now, I'll be honest with you, I've been in a church nine months longer than I've been alive. I've been to more prayer meetings than I can count, and I don't think I've ever seen anything like this. And what is our natural default? We say, "Well, the reason we don't see anything like this is because, well, that's just not how God moves anymore. God just doesn't do it. That was 2,000 years ago. That was the early church. That was the apostles. It's a different day today. He doesn't shake buildings anymore. That's just not his style."

Let me take you back 70 years ago. I know 70 years ago to some of us is ancient history, but the span of 2,000 years, can we say that's relatively a short time? Seventy years ago on the continent of Europe, there was a revival that was called the Hebrides Revival. A man by the name Duncan Campbell, a very well-known preacher in the days, actually chronicled, he actually journaled what happened on the Hebrides Islands for those three or four years, an amazing move of God. But it didn't start off amazing, and it's not like they began this series of meetings and all of a sudden heaven just opened up. In fact, it got off to a slow start. In fact, that were several dozen believers there who they wanted their world turned upside down, they wanted the Christians really living the life they

claimed to profess, but nothing was happening. They had meeting after meeting. They prayed. They preached. They sang and just nothing happened.

One night after a service, about 11 o'clock at night, they decided to go down to a neighboring what we would probably call hut, they called a small apartment in those days. And a small group of them, they gathered around to pray. They began to beg God that why was he not showing up? Why was he not moving? Have you ever felt that in your life? "God, why aren't you moving in this situation? Why isn't anything budging here? Why do I keep hitting up against a wall?" That's what they began to pray and Duncan Campbell, the one who journaled all of this, felt compelled about midnight, he felt compelled to call upon a young man, his name was John, and he was a blacksmith in the community. He said, "John, would you please pray for us?" Now, you can go and look up the exact words that John prayed because it has been chronicled. Allow me to give you the paraphrased version of his prayer. It wasn't long and it wasn't a previous prayer that was just regurgitated over. It was very personal. He said, "O God, your word promised that you would bring water to a thirsty ground. We are thirsty ground." He said, "I don't know where these other men stand with you but I know where I stand with you. You promised to send rain to dry ground, we are dry ground. You have not sent the rain." And here's what he said, he said, "O God, your honor is at stake." Now, I don't know about you but lightning has a 12 foot radius. I would have run. I mean, any time somebody prays, "God, if you don't show up, it's on you, not us," that's bold.

Guess what happened? Duncan Campbell recorded it in his journal. The building, the little hut began to shake. In fact, the plates came off and they broke on the floor. I know with our skeptical minds we think, "Well, maybe that was a little earthquake. Maybe there was a little platonic movements there. Maybe because of all of the people in the house..." It would be easy to say that if it were not for the rest of the story. That dozen or so people in that small room walked out that day, this is well past midnight, and hundreds of people dressed in their pajamas carrying their own chairs were coming to the church begging to hear about Jesus. It didn't happen when they preached and it didn't happen when they sang, it happened when they prayed. So if you want the power of God to fall in and on your life, then we've got to pray and we've got to do it according to the way he mapped out. He said it very clearly, "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, you can ask what you will, and it will be given unto you."

Let's pray. With our heads about and our eyes closed. You know, this morning we've talked about the power of prayer, the potential of prayer, and we've talked about buildings shaking and we've talked about people descending into late middle of the night, but I think the most powerful thing that the Lord does through prayer is takes a soul that is headed toward destruction, takes a soul that is headed toward a place the Bible calls hell, and forgives and saves that soul and redeems them and gives them new life. In fact, many of us in this room today are a testimony to the power of prayer because we called out to God one day and he forgave us and he saved us. Maybe you're that person today needing that power of God, needing that change of God, needing that transformation of God in your life. I've got some great news for you. You don't have to sign up for a class. You don't have to jump through a series of hoops. You just need to pray. Y'all remember

prayer, it's just a conversation with God. You don't have to say it out loud. In fact, you don't even have to say the same words I might say but maybe your conversation would go a little something like this. "God, today I just want to admit, I just want to confess what you already know about me. I've done things I should have never done. I've said things I should have never said. And God, I thought things I should have never thought. God, I understand that's sin. I've gone against your word. I've gone against your way. Lord, I'm the problem but I believe that Jesus Christ is the answer. God, I'm never going to be good enough, I'm never going to somehow do enough stuff or stop doing enough stuff to earn my forgiveness and salvation. God, I believe that only Jesus can provide that and so today, God, I believe that Jesus Christ loved me so much that he was willing to be born on my behalf. I believe that Jesus Christ loved me so much that he was willing to live a sinless life rejecting all temptation on my behalf. I believe that Jesus Christ loved me so much he was willing to pay the price of my sin on the cross and to rise from the grave three days later so that I could be forgiven and I could be saved. God, today I'm just crying out. I don't have all the answers to the world's problems but I know Jesus is the answer to my sin problem. I'm asking you to forgive me and I'm asking you to save me. In the best way I know how, I just want to turn my life over to you."

With our heads still bowed and our eyes still closed, in just a moment, if you just had that conversation with the Lord, we'd love to have a conversation with you. We'd love to hear how the Lord is moving in your life even this very day. But maybe you're that person today, you had that conversation years ago, maybe it was even decades ago, and maybe there is a struggle, maybe there is a doubt, maybe there is one of those proverbial walls in life that you can't just seem to get beyond. Whatever that is, it's of no greater strength than a soul headed in the wrong direction. If God can save your soul, if he can forgive your sins, then he can take care of whatever situation is ahead of you this day.

Lord, as we come to this time, Lord, thank you. Thank you, God, that you want to hear our voice. Thank you that you want to speak into our lives. Thank you that you gave us two ears so that we could hear your voice and we could read your word and have direction for our lives. Thank you that you don't want to just leave us walking aimlessly in this world but you desire for us to be where you have called us to be. O God, help us right now, whatever that may be, whatever decision needs to be made, whatever thing needs to happen, God, may we be where you desire us to be. It is in the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.