

January 1, 2021

Dangerous Prayers

Introduction:

As the pastor of Simon Temple, before the Pandemic, most definitely during, I have prayed stronger and gone to the Throne of God in a totally different way. I am convinced that people that had not prayed in a long time, in 2020 they became faithful prayers. I have seen this Pandemic turn non-believers into believers, I have seen doubters become witnesses.

Therefore in 2021 we need “Dangerous Prayers” You may be asking pastor what are dangerous prayers? I am going to answer that questions and others and we begin this Powerful Series.

Let us pray now for the anointing of dangerous prayers, Lord Jesus, we come now Lord asking for forgiveness of sins and new victories for this year. Lord help your people to commit to a power change in the way that we pray. Lord we want to reverence you in a greater magnitude in 2021, Lord you have been so faithful to us, and we thank you, may this become our new offering to you. May we never go back to ordinary prayers, it is in Jesus name we pray Amen.

Remember that song “The Ordinary Just Won’t Do?” Well, the ordinary prayers are surely not enough for where the Lord has brought us through in 2020. I am here to serve notice Simon Temple that our days of ordinary prayers are long gone. We are no longer rendering ordinary prayers to an “Extraordinary God” that does not perform ordinary things. The God that has held back death from the sting of Covid in our lives, deserves higher praise and stronger prayers.

We do not know what 2021 holds, but we will be prepared with dangerous prayers, there are many prayers that we utilize to reach the throne of God.

The Prayer of Praise

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Prayer of Adoration

The Prayer of Invitation

The Prayer of Inspiration

The Prayer of Surrender

The Prayer of Intercession

The Prayer of Liberation

Part One
“Search Me”

Psalm 139:23 Search me O, Lord and know my heart: try me and know my thoughts.

Although David realized that God knew everything about him, and he acknowledged that he was ever open the Lord. He still asked the Lord to search him and try him. We all should be familiar with the terminology when we have messed up in our marriage, relationship, or with family of friends. We come back with that plea of wanting another chance, because we know that we have “messed up.” We want another chance to prove ourselves, to show a better side of us. Just as David did, we are returning to God my brothers and sisters because we have all “messed up.”

As a body our hearts should return with a stronger worship and a stronger prayer, we were not as faithful to God in 2021 as we could have been. Some of us panicked on things that we should have continued to trust God on, so now we are asking God to search and try us, that we may move closer to Him. Our new desire is to begin to pray dangerous prayers, and I as your pastor asked that you entrust me through the Holy Spirit to get us there. This will not be an easy journey, but a necessary one. We are asking God to lead us in a way that enables us to become fully equipped for dangerous prayers.

See praying from the heart is personal and unmistakable, our prayers do not always need to be long, but they should indeed be “strong.” We should be open and honest with God because David already reminded us that God knows and sees all. He knows the very intent of our hearts. (Hebrews 4:10)

We have no idea what’s inside of us, especially when we are pushed against a wall. Some people can bring out things inside of us that we have no idea that is there. They can also cause the old sinful nature to surface back up. They can cause you to go “Straight hood” on them.

David said, “Lord search me, repeat that we me “Lord Search Me.”

We do not have to look far into the Book of Psalms to see the heart of cries from David. He questioned God, he complained to God, and he petitioned God. From the depths of his soul, David cried out to our heavenly Father. He asked, “how long God will you hide your face from me?” “How long will I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemies’ triumph over me?” (Ps. 13:1-2) Many of us are not comfortable praying openly and freely. We assume that there is a right way or a better way, or even a more eloquent way.

We tend to stumble into ruts and pray the same way over and over, which some prayer is better than no prayer. We become bored with our own prayers, but we never change them. It's time to become David's over our lives and say "Lord, search me and try me" Lord help me to become committed to "Dangerous Prayers" in 2021.

"Lord, Search Me"

Questions to Ponder:

What is your response to "Dangerous Prayers?"

What thoughts immediately came into your mind that you need to pray stronger about?

Where do you stand in your prayer life?

Dangerous prayers will require a stronger prayer level are you willing to try?

"TRUTH OR DARE"

Galatians 4:6 And because ye are son, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying Abba, Father.

We have received many blessing from God, because we belong to Him, we possess His spirit within us. After salvation we go to him to meet our every need. Through prayer we grown closer and closer to his will and desires for us, we develop a spiritual bond with him.

I have an earthly bond with my children, I pray God's blessing on all that they do concerning him. Before birth, my wife and I prayed over them, then neutered and provided all that we thought was best for them. Birthdays, Christmas, and those just because times, it brings us joy to see the joy on their faces when they open gifts.

There were times when they would use each other to try and get me to agree with something that I may have previously said no to. Because they are such good children, it was my pleasure to put a smile on their faces.

The role of the father in the home is to mirror that of our heavenly Father, God cares for us and answers our prayers and intercedes on our behalf.

Prayer is scared communication, the language of longing, a divine dialogue, between you and our heavenly Father. God is concerned about what we have to say and all that we carry around in

our hearts. He loves to communicate with us, just as we do others. He desires to hear from us daily. As believers we must remember that no matter the circumstances, our prayers matter, what we pray matters, and our prayers move God. Hebrews 4:16 reminds us that we can come boldly before the throne of God and find help in a time of need. We do not have to approach timidly or feel awkward He is our Abba Father we can come in confidence, assurance, and boldness. When we pray, we can receive His mercy and grace to help us.

The “Truth” of this chapter is, we know that God hears our prayers and answers them time after time. His love for us was displayed at the Cross and has never ended, His forgiveness and care is beyond our comprehension.

The “Dare” is are we willing to follow to Him to move our prayer life to a higher level that takes us totally out of our comfort zone? In ways that will cause us to pray for our enemies. Are you willing to have Luke 6:8 prayers, where we bless them that curse us, and pray for those that spitefully use us? Dangerous prayers transform lives and bring righteous discomfort. It will cause us to look deep inside ourselves and not at others.

Dangerous prayers will cause us to go off script from our usual way of doing things and change our so easy predictable prayer life. We will no longer to the “check the box” type praying but decrease and allow the power of God to increase. We will seek others to join in on our new path of prayer.

Dangerous prayers will cost us, Jesus said in John 15:20b The servant is not greater than his lord. If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you... These prayers dares us to become different in our prayers and our walk. Your prayer lifestyle will “change” Are you Ready?

“Lord, Search Me”

Questions to Ponder:

In our world the word “dare” can sound intimidating, do you feel spiritually intimidated about your next level of prayer?

There should be a sense of decision going on within you, are you experiencing that?

Truth or Dare is totally about the “truth” of God hearing our prayers and the “dare” of committing to increasing our prayer level. How often do you pray?

Are you willing to ask God to lead you in ways to increase or prioritize your prayer times?

“THE STATE OF THE HEART”

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked; who can know it?

Jeremiah clearly shares that our hearts cannot be trusted, no matter how we try to change it or cover it, it cannot be trusted. Our hearts can cause us to make unsound decisions, decisions that we can regret for a lifetime. This is why it is vital as believers that we follow the Holy Spirit, not man and not our hearts. This can only be performed through constant prayer.

David with all of his heart wanted to please God, he fought against his anger to show honor and protect the king, although he knew that his motives were not always perfect. David surrendered his heart before God and prayed one of the most vulnerable, transparent, and dangerous prayers that we have ever heard. David prayed “Search Me, Lord and know my heart.” As we talked about in our introduction, “Search Me” this is the beginning of our spiritual operation. Saying ‘search me’ is like saying Lord, show me my heart and tell me what is wrong.

It is like going to the cardiologist and having an echogram and the results are given, the doctors may suggest a change of diet or maybe to exercise. To some degree they will give the diagnosis from the problem with your heart. When that report is given life adjustments will have to be made.

Dangerous prayers are likened to that doctor’s visit, when the Lord reveals your heart issues provisions must be made. Dangerous prayers will require adjustment in our spiritual lives, it will be difficult and challenging, but earthly and heavenly rewarding. It requires the courage to live out what God reveals to us about our prayer life and our hearts.

It has the potential to bring out convictions and corrections to redirect us. Maybe you are wondering why should I ask God to search my heart when He already knows it? This is why, so that we can admit and agree with Him the areas of concern. On the surface we appear to know our hearts when we really do not. God’s Word reveals the total opposite, we can never know our heart. It’s easy to pretend that we have a good heart, but the Bible teaches us that all hearts are not good. Our ways are not God’s ways that is why we need Christ, not just to forgive us, but to transform us, direct and re-direct us and to make us new.

Research reveals that most people tell multiple lies every day, most often because we do not want to hurt someone's feelings. But the most common lies are the ones that we tell ourselves, we all to some degree and at some time lie to ourselves and others.

David could have chosen a different path toward King Saul, but instead he chose the highest road the more daring one.

The man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:13) decided to pray, knowing that his own heart was capable of tricking him again. David desired to please Christ rather than himself, that is why he prayed a dangerous prayer, **"Search My Heart Lord"**

Questions to Ponder:

What are your thoughts about your heart?

Jeremiah 17:9 says, "the heart is _____"

Are you willing to pray the prayer of David?

Name one word that your heart needs more of and one that it needs less of.

"HARD CHOICES"

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and come short of the Glory of God.

Remember the days that we sat in the pews at church and we heard message after message on Salvation and we knew that we were not saved? The Word of God was being preached so hard and heavy, but we sat there wanting to go forward and give our lives to Jesus, but it was just so hard. How we wrestled with the Holy Spirit and the devil at that moment, we focused on what we would be giving up and the new changes we would have to make.

Then during that one service, during the ride home or at home. Wherever it may have been we accepted the Lord Jesus as your Savior. It was not a hard choice because you knew you needed Jesus (He died for our sins) it was a hard decision because we are all uncomfortable with change.

Life is full of hard choices, thank God that we have His Holy Spirit to lead and guide us. This chapter cause me to think of the youth of today that are faced with many hard choices. I am thankful that Simon Temple has invested in the lives of our youth, so that when they are faced

with choices that seem hard, they can think back to the spiritual seed that has been planted within. That is why as the body of believers we are to be faithful attenders and connect with a ministry to serve the Lord and others. See we cannot be Kingdom Builders if you are not using your spiritual tools.

No believer should be comfortable sitting on the sideline if you are able to play in the game. God has a plan for your life, and it is first to glorify Him then use you gift or gifts to reproduce yourself. This Pandemic has caused some changes as to how we gather, but we can never sit down on God. Our blessings never stop; therefore, we should not stop. Serve Him with gladness seek ways to praise and do not give in to a “Spiritual Pandemic Pause”

Hard choices, as I stated earlier are a part of life, “nobody told me that the road would be easy, I don’t believe He brought me this far to leave me” That is the perfect song to walk us through hard choices pray about and then sing about it.

Jesus made a hard choice in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:39) He prayed Father, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt. Jesus set the example of making hard choices, He prayed and then He proceeded to do the will of His Father.

Dangerous prayers will teach us how to follow the Lord and make hard choices that produces blessings. Joshua may have faced a hard choice for his family, but he chose that as a family that they would serve the Lord.

Dangerous prayers require individual decisions that entails the directions of saying,

“Lord, Search Me”

Questions to Ponder:

What hard choices are you facing right now, that you need to give to God?

What scripture can you quote that reminds you that God can handle your hard choices?

Are you in need of a prayer partner to help you with this situation?

Are you willing to reach out for personal private prayer?

“REVEAL MY FEARS”

What is it in your life that cause you to be fearful? Is it your fear of Corona Virus, losing your job, marital, financial, relationship or health problems?

David apparently was dealing with fear because, he was worried about his safety. After asking God to search his heart, he prayed know my anxious ways. (Psalm 139:23) He wanted to share his worse fears with God, to face them and give them a name. Are you willing to pray such a prayer, “Lord reveal what holds my mind hostage, show me what I fear the most?”

What we fear the most reveals what we trust God with the least, what we fear matters. The things that keep us up at night are the things we are holding on to. We must give those things over to God, He can handle them for us. Our fears matter because ultimately, our fears reveal who we are, they show how we are relying on our efforts and not our Savior.

God’s power is most manifested through our weakness, it is then that His power is made perfect. (2Corinthians 2:9) God’s grace is sufficient for us.... To please God is to serve Him, honor Him, and to live for Him, we cannot be driven by fear. 2Timothy 1:7 tells us that God hath not give us the spirit of fear but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Through the centuries many Christians have believed that God’s enemy the devil, attempts to influence the believers with lies and this is true. When we become fearful of failure, we are relying on ourselves and not God’s Power. When we pray dangerous prayers God will reveal to us what keeps us from fully following Him.

It is now time to prepare our hearts for the next level of prayer, remember that “perfect love drives out fear” (1John 4:8) As God reveals our fears, He will also build our faith. We need His spirit guiding us and His Word strengthening us. Faith does not mean that we are never afraid, faith means that we do not allow fear to stop us.

Dangerous Prayers

“Lord, Search Me”

Questions to Ponder:

What are you most fearful of?

When did this fear/fears begin?

Are you ready to give those fears to God?

“For God hath not given _____ the spirit of fear. (place your name here)