

TEACHING SERIES



Reckless Prayers

Talk to Me sermon series

By Brian Croyle, 10.20.19

Big Idea: God invites us to pray “reckless”, transcendent prayers – prayers that glorify Him and benefit others.

“Reckless” (adj.) – from the Old English, meaning “careless, thoughtless, heedless.”

- Showing a lack of care about risks or danger, and acting without thinking about the results of one’s actions.

Recklessness can be very bad if it’s irresponsible and lacking compassion. But “responsible recklessness” produced by faith in God and a love for others is a good and powerful thing. **It’s an act of submission that shows we trust God with our lives.**

- We know that God loves us and has our best (not our easiest!) in mind. Because of this, we can pray in such a way that trusts God with the outcome.
- We no longer are constrained or driven by fear, and we don’t feel responsible for the results. We simply submit and let God do what only He can do in our lives and those around us.

Five “reckless” prayers from the Bible:

- I. **Your will be done** (Matthew 6:10; Mark 14:36) – the reckless prayer of **Yielding and Obeying**
 - To say that we put God’s will above our own is to yield to His plans for us.
 - Once we pray this, we’ll be called upon to follow through in obedience – but we’ll find greater, not lesser, blessing in the process.
- II. **Grow Your fruit** (Galatians 5:22-23) – the reckless prayer of **Pruning and Maturing**
 - God wants to grow love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control in us and in the ones we love.
 - In the process, God will also have to prune away the not-so-good fruit in our lives.
- III. **Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening** (1 Samuel 3:10; John 10:2-4) – the reckless prayer of **Seeking and Listening**
 - Jesus said that His sheep know His voice – He wants us to know what He has to say to us.
 - He will help us to learn His will for our lives, but more importantly we’ll be drawn closer to Him in relationship.

- IV. **Open our eyes so we can see** (2 Kings 6:17) – the reckless prayer of **Perceiving and Believing**
- To see the world through God’s eyes is to change our lens of perception – to stop thinking in merely human terms, and to see things the way God does.
 - Seeing God at work in the world around us builds our faith in Him and in the future He has for us.
- V. **Let my heart feel what You feel** (Matthew 9:36) – the reckless prayer of **Caring and Connecting**
- Sometimes our hearts need to be broken by the things that break the heart of God, so that we will be compelled to love others on His behalf.
 - Sometimes our hearts need to be reminded of the love He has for us and the joy He takes in walking through life with us.

NEXT STEP:

Which of these prayers do you feel drawn to start praying? That’s God’s Spirit drawing you. How will you respond, both today and going forward?

FOR MY PERSONAL TIME WITH GOD THIS WEEK:

Practice these prayers over the next week. As you pray, leave time to be silent before God and give Him the space to speak to you.

1. Pray “not my will, but Yours be done.” Pray that God would accomplish in you what brings glory to Him.
2. Pray “grow the fruit of Your Spirit in me.” Pray for God to grow godly character in you. Ask God to show you how to pray these things for your family and your friends, and follow any leading He places on your heart.
3. Pray “speak, Lord, for Your servant is listening.” Pray that God will help you to hear the things that He wants to say to you, and then listen expectantly. Make a day of it – keep bringing your thoughts back to God, tell Him you’re listening, and discover what He longs to share with you.
4. Pray “open my eyes to see.” Pray that God would let you see how He is working in your life, in your family, and in the world around you. Let what you see build your faith in His goodness and power.
5. Pray “let me feel what You feel.” Pray that God would break your heart where it needs to be broken and fill your heart where it needs to be filled.

RESOURCES:

Most of this sermon is derived from the chapter “Reckless Prayers” from the book *Reckless Faith*, written by pastor and author Kevin G. Harney (2012, Baker Books). Check out his website at kevingharney.com. I strongly encourage you to get your hands on this book. It’s also available as a small group study, complete with study guides and videos. The book and study provide practical ways to live out a life of “responsible recklessness”, trusting in God and walking in faith.