

"The Pillar" Part 6 | cfParis



Sermon Summary: "The Pillar of Prayer"

In this concluding message of the series based on the book of James, the focus turns to one of the most vital yet often misunderstood elements of the Christian life: prayer. Drawing from James 5:13–20, Pastor Cory reminds us that prayer is not performance—it's relationship. Just like a child cries out to a parent, we are invited to approach our Heavenly Father with honesty, vulnerability, and boldness.

James, nicknamed "Old Camel's Knees" because of his dedication to prayer, teaches us that prayer is not meant to be complicated, religious, or restricted—it's meant to be a powerful, life-giving conversation with God. The message breaks down seven keys to unlocking a vibrant and powerful prayer life. These keys are not formulas, but practical principles rooted in Scripture that help believers lean into intimacy with God, walk in faith, and stay persistent in seeking Him.

The sermon closes with a call to action: pray persistently, pray with others, pray with fire, and never stop believing that God is present, powerful, and listening.

Key Themes:

- Prayer as Relationship – At its core, prayer is a child talking to their Heavenly Father.
- Authenticity – God desires real, honest conversations—not polished performances.
- Participation in Faith – Prayer isn't passive; we're called to partner with God in seeing His will done.
- Unity Through Confession – Prayer brings healing when we confess and walk in integrity.
- Kingdom Mindset – Praying with eternity in mind keeps our hearts aligned with God's purposes.
- Power of Community – Corporate prayer brings strength, healing, and shared faith.
- Persistence in Prayer – Keep praying, even when you don't see results right away.

Key Takeaways:

- ✓ Keep it Real – Honest prayers are powerful prayers. God isn't looking for fancy words—He's looking for your heart.
- ✓ Don't Just Pray—Participate – Do your part while trusting God to do His.
- ✓ Confess and Find Healing – Healing begins when we walk in the light and confess our struggles.
- ✓ Focus on the Bigger Picture – Miracles are amazing, but salvation is the ultimate win.
- ✓ Lean into Relationships – Community and prayer go hand in hand.
- ✓ Pray with Fire – Be intentional, focused, and passionate in your prayers.
- ✓ Never Give Up – Like Elijah, keep praying until the breakthrough comes.

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Discussion Questions: "The Pillar of Prayer"

Icebreakers:

1. What's your earliest memory of praying? Was it alone, with family, or in church?
2. If you could ask God one question in person, what would it be and why?

Exploring the Message:

3. James says, "Are you suffering? You should pray. Are you happy? You should sing praises." Why do you think we sometimes forget to pray in both hardship and joy?
4. The message said prayer is like a child talking to their dad. How does that shift your view of what prayer should feel like?
5. Which of the seven keys stood out most to you (Keep it Real, Participation, Internal Unity, Kingdom Mindset, Relationships, Fervency, Persistence)? Why?
6. The sermon emphasized that confession brings healing. How can we create a safe environment for honest prayer and confession in our groups or church?
7. Elijah prayed seven times before seeing results. What does his persistence teach us about faith and endurance in prayer?

Application Questions:

8. What area of your life do you need to start "participating" in—not just praying about, but taking steps toward?
9. When was the last time you prayed with someone else? What was that experience like? How can you incorporate more communal prayer into your life?
10. Choose one of the seven keys to focus on this week. What's one practical way you can apply it in your personal prayer life?

Notes for the Group Leader

- Encourage your members to attend the Compass class and the Practicing the Way course. Those happen on a rolling basis - check the App or Website for details.
- Also don't forget to take attendance for your group using the cfParis App. Add any pertinent notes, praise stories or prayer requests.