- Prayer is the exercise of **faith**, not a performance for impressive Christians.
- We depend on God for the fruit we cannot produce or **preserve** ourselves.

How Prayer Breathes Life into the Church:

1. Gathered Prayer is nourished by **personal** prayer
2. Gathered prayer is addressed to God and **strengthens** the congregation.
3. Gathered Prayer should be directed by **Scripture**.
4. Scripture gives our Gathered Prayers breadth and **variety**.
5. Gathered Prayers should be sincere & consistent with our **lives**.

Reflection Questions:

1. What practical step will you take this week to guard your personal prayer time?
2. Which member of Trailview could you invite to share how they have seen God's grace and pray together with you?
3. How will you participate more intentionally in the church's gathered prayer—during the Sunday service, at the evening prayer meeting, or by praying through the membership directory?

"Praying the Word"

November 15, 2026

Sermon Text: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

Main Truth: We talk to a God who listens, so we must be a praying people.

Main Questions of Leviticus: How can sinful people live in the presence of a holy God?

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3 Questions & 1 Comment about Gathered Prayer

1. What is *Corporate* Prayer?

- Prayer is pouring out our hearts to God in praise, petition, confession of sin, and thanksgiving. (New City Catechism, Q38)
- Calvin called prayer "the chief exercise of **faith**."
- Eugene Peterson describes prayer as bringing ourselves to **attention** before God.
- Corporate prayer is God's people turning their attention toward God and **speaking** to him together.

2. Why *WE* Pray?

"94% of American adults who have prayed at least once in the last three months do so by themselves." — Barna Research

"Prayer is by far the most common spiritual practice among Americans… [But] people pray mostly alone—it is a solitary activity defined by the immediate needs and concerns of the individual. Corporate prayer and corporate needs are less compelling drivers in people's prayer lives…But what would it look like to begin to broaden the scope of those prayer lives? To consider the power of corporate prayer—when more than one are gathered in God's name?" — Barna Research

- Paul urges the church to pray "first of **all**."
- God commands us to pray, not because he lacks information, but because we live in **dependence** on him.
- Prayer is a normal part of the life of God's people: from Genesis 4, through the **Psalms**, in Jesus' life and teaching, and in the church in Acts 4.
- Christ is the one **mediator** between God and humanity, who gave himself as a ransom.

Acts 4:24-31 — "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, 25 who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit,

"'Why did the Gentiles rage,
and the peoples plot in vain?
26 The kings of the earth set themselves,
and the rulers were gathered together,
against the Lord and against his Anointed'—

27 for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, 28 to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. 29 And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, 30 while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." 31 And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness."

3. What *WE* Pray?

Reverence: Praise & Plead God's person and **promises**.

Numbers 14:13-19 — "But Moses said to the Lord, "Then the Egyptians will hear of it, for you brought up this people in your might from among them, 14 and they will tell the inhabitants of this land. They have heard that you, O Lord, are in the midst of this people. For you, O Lord, are seen face to face, and your cloud stands over them and you go before them, in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night. 15 Now if you kill this people as one man, then the nations who have heard your fame will say, 16 'It is because the Lord was not able to bring this people into the land that he swore to give to them that he has killed them in the wilderness.' 17 And now, please let the power of the Lord be great as you have promised, saying, 18 'The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression, but he will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, to the third and the fourth generation.' 19 Please pardon the iniquity of this people, according to the greatness of your steadfast love, just as you have forgiven this people, from Egypt until now."

Response: Pray for God's revealed **will** to be done.

Matthew 7:12 — "*So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you*"

Request: Bring our needs and the needs of **others** before God.

Readiness: Ask for help to live **faithfully**.

4. *WE* Must Pray

"Common sense Christian living takes place in an atmosphere where prayer is as natural as breathing, as necessary as oxygen, as real as talking to your favorite person with whom there is no strain, as sensible as reaching into the bag of flour for the proper supplies for making bread." — Edith Schaeffer