

DANGEROUS PRAYERS



THE PRAYERS THAT CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING

THE THREE DANGEROUS PRAYERS

SEARCH ME “God, show me what I cannot see about myself.

CHANGE ME “God, don't just reveal what's wrong. Transform me.”

SEND ME “God, use my life for Your purposes.”

The progression is important: SEARCH ME → CHANGE ME → SEND ME**

God searches us before He sends us.

God changes us so He can use us.

And ultimately, the prayer becomes

“God, search me. Change me. Send me.”

Why is this dangerous? It's a dangerous prayer because God might actually answer it.

And when God does, what will you do?

WEEK ONE — SEARCH ME

Psalm 139 ends with one of the most dangerous prayers we can pray: *“Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”*

This week is about surrendering our defenses and allowing God to reveal what is really happening inside us—not to condemn us, but to lead us.

MONDAY — GOD, KNOW ME

Read Psalm 139:1-6; Jeremiah 17:10 *“You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.” — Psalm 139:1*

God already knows us completely. There is nowhere we can hide from God and nothing we can successfully conceal. The amazing thing about Psalm 139 is that David

doesn't respond to this knowledge by running away. Instead, he recognizes that being completely known by God can actually be comforting.

God knows the things we don't tell anyone else. He knows our motives, fears, insecurities, wounds, hopes and desires. And yet, God remains present.

What does it mean to you that God knows you completely? Is there a part of yourself you are tempted to hide from God? Why can being completely known by God feel both comforting and uncomfortable? What would change if you truly believed that God's knowledge of you is accompanied by God's love for you?

Prayer Focus: *God, help me stop pretending with You. Give me courage to be completely honest about who I am.*

TUESDAY — SEARCH MY HEART

Read Psalm 139:23-24; Psalm 51:10; Hebrews 4:12-13 *“Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.” — Psalm 139:23*

The prayer “Search me” requires humility. We tend to evaluate ourselves based on our intentions: “I meant well. I didn't mean to hurt anyone. I was just trying to help.” But Scripture invites us to look deeper.

Sometimes our actions reveal things about our hearts that we don't want to admit. Anger may reveal hurt. Envy may reveal insecurity. Judgment may reveal pride. Control may reveal fear. The dangerous prayer is not, “God, tell me how good I am.” It is, “GOD, SHOW ME THE TRUTH ABOUT ME.”

What emotions or reactions in your life might be revealing something deeper? When have you discovered that your motives weren't as pure as you thought? What makes honest self-examination difficult? What might God be inviting you to notice about your heart right now?

Prayer Focus: *God, search beneath my behavior and reveal the motives, attitudes and desires that need Your attention.*

WEDNESDAY — SHOW ME WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE

Read Matthew 7:3-5; Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 13:5 *“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?” — Matthew 7:3*

Jesus asks a difficult question. (You might remember Pastor Ben talking about this passage a few weeks ago.): “Why do you look at the speck in someone else's eye while ignoring the plank in your own?”

We are naturally good at identifying what is wrong with everyone else. The dangerous prayer turns the spotlight around. Before asking God to change “them”, we ask God to change “me”. Self-examination isn't about becoming obsessed with our failures. It is about becoming willing to recognize the places where God wants to work.

What faults in other people bother you the most? Could any of those frustrations reveal something God wants to work on in you? Why is it easier to diagnose someone else's problems than our own? What is one area where you need to stop making excuses and start inviting God into the process?

Prayer Focus: *God, replace my tendency to criticize others with the humility to examine myself.*

THURSDAY — LEAD ME

Read Psalm 139:24; Proverbs 3:5-6; Psalm 25:4-5 *“Lead me in the way everlasting.”*
— Psalm 139:24

The prayer doesn't stop with “Show me what's wrong.” It continues: “Lead me.”

God doesn't reveal our broken places simply to make us feel guilty. God reveals them so He can lead us somewhere better. There is a difference between conviction and condemnation.

Condemnation says, “Look how terrible you are.”
God's conviction says, “This is something I want to heal, transform and redeem.”

Where might God be asking you to change direction? What makes following God's direction difficult? Are there places where you want God to lead you but aren't willing to surrender control? What would it look like to trust God with your next step rather than your entire journey?

Prayer Focus: *God, don't just show me what needs to change. Lead me into the person You are calling me to become.*

FRIDAY — THE DANGEROUS PRAYER

Read Psalm 139:23-24; Romans 8:1; Philippians 1:6 *“See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”* — Psalm 139:24

The prayer “Search me” is dangerous because...God might actually answer it.

God may reveal an attitude we need to surrender, a relationship we need to repair, a habit we need to break, a wound we need to address or a calling we have been

avoiding. But we don't pray this prayer alone. The God who searches us is also the God who loves us. The God who reveals our brokenness is the God who brings healing.

The question isn't whether God knows us.

The question is whether we are willing to let God show us what He sees.

What has God shown you about yourself this week? What are you tempted to do with what God has revealed? Is there something you need to confess, release or surrender? What would it look like for "Search me" to become a regular prayer in your life?

Prayer Focus: *God, search me completely. Reveal what needs to be revealed, heal what needs to be healed, and lead me where You want me to go.*

WEEK TWO — CHANGE ME

"God, don't just show me who I am. Make me different."

The story of the man at the pool of Bethesda in John chapter 5 is about more than physical healing. Jesus encounters a man who has been living with his condition for 38 years and asks him a startling question: "Do you want to get well?"

It seems like an obvious question. But sometimes the life we have become accustomed to is easier to defend than the life God is offering us.

Change can be frightening—even when the change is good.

MONDAY — DO YOU WANT TO GET WELL?

Read John 5:1-9 *"Do you want to get well?" — John 5:6*

Jesus asks a question that sounds almost unnecessary: "Do you want to get well?" But Jesus isn't simply asking whether the man wants his circumstances to change. He is confronting the possibility that change requires participation. Sometimes we become comfortable with our excuses, our patterns and even our pain.

Why do you think Jesus asked this question? What patterns have you become comfortable with even though they aren't healthy? Are there things you complain about but have become accustomed to? What would you answer if Jesus asked you this question today?

Prayer Focus: *Jesus, give me the courage to honestly answer the question, “Do you want to get well?”*

TUESDAY — STOP MAKING EXCUSES

Read John 5:7; Luke 14:15-24; Proverbs 28:13 *“Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.”*
— John 5:8

When Jesus asks the man about getting well, he responds with an explanation. “I have no one. Someone always else gets there first.”

His explanation may have been completely legitimate. But Jesus doesn't spend the rest of the conversation debating the reasons. He simply tells him to get up.

There are legitimate wounds in our lives. There are things that have happened to us that weren't our fault. But healing sometimes requires us to stop allowing our past to have the final word about our future.

What is the difference between explaining your circumstances and using them as an excuse? What past experience has the potential to keep you stuck? Where might God be asking you to take responsibility for your next step? What does “get up” look like in your life?

Prayer Focus: *God, help me recognize the difference between what happened to me and what I am choosing today.*

WEDNESDAY — GET UP

Read Scripture: John 5:8-9; Isaiah 43:18-19; Philippians 3:13-14 *“Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.”* — John 5:8

Jesus doesn't tell the man to understand everything. He doesn't tell him to explain everything. He tells him to get up.

SOMETIMES FAITH IS SIMPLY TAKING THE NEXT STEP.

We can spend so much time waiting for perfect circumstances that we never move.

JESUS INVITES US TO MOVE.

What step have you been waiting too long to take? What would happen if you stopped waiting for everything to be perfect? What does your “mat” represent—the thing that reminds you of where you've been? How might God use the thing you once carried as part of your testimony?

Prayer Focus: *Jesus, give me courage to get up and take the next faithful step.*

THURSDAY — CHANGE THE WAY YOU LIVE

Read John 5:10-14; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:1-10 *“See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.” — John 5:14*

Jesus finds the man later and says something interesting: “Stop sinning.” The encounter wasn't simply about making the man feel better. Jesus wanted his life to be different. *GRACE DOESN'T SIMPLY REMOVE US FROM OUR PAST. GRACE CALLS US INTO A NEW WAY OF LIVING.*

Why is behavioral change often harder than recognizing the need for change? What old pattern do you need to leave behind? What new practice could help you live differently? How can grace motivate change rather than become an excuse not to change?

Prayer Focus: *God, don't let me settle for temporary relief. Transform the way I live.*

FRIDAY — CHANGE ME

Read Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Philippians 1:6 *“Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” — Romans 12:2*

The dangerous prayer is: “God, change me.” Not...
Change my spouse.
Change my boss.
Change my neighbor.

We often pray for God to change our circumstances. The more dangerous prayer is asking God to change us—even if the circumstances don't change.

Transformation begins when we stop trying to control everything around us and allow God to work within us.

What is one thing you want God to change in you? What are you afraid you might have to give up? How would your relationships change if God transformed this area of your life? What is one practical step you can take this week?

Prayer Focus: *God, change me. Change my heart, my thinking, my habits and my priorities until my life looks more like Jesus.*

WEEK THREE — SEND ME

“God, use my life for something bigger than myself.”

Isaiah 6 gives us the classic response: “Here am I. Send me!”

But notice the order. Isaiah first encounters God. Then he recognizes his own brokenness. Then he receives God's cleansing. Then he hears God's call.

Search me.
Change me.
SEND ME.

We aren't sent because we are perfect. We are sent because we have encountered a holy God, received grace and are willing to say yes.

MONDAY — SEEING GOD

Read Isaiah 6:1-4; Revelation 4:8-11 *“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty.” — Isaiah 6:3*

Isaiah's calling begins with worship. Before God gives Isaiah a mission, Isaiah sees God. And that sequence matters. If our mission begins with ourselves, we eventually become exhausted. But when our mission begins with God, we remember who we are serving.

What stands out to you about Isaiah's vision of God? How does seeing God's holiness change the way we see ourselves? Why is worship an important starting point for serving others? What happens when we serve without staying connected to God?

Prayer Focus: *God, help me see You clearly before I try to figure out what You want me to do.*

TUESDAY — HERE AM I

Read Isaiah 6:5-7; Psalm 51:1-12; 1 John 1:9 *“Here am I. Send me!” — Isaiah 6:8*

Isaiah's response to God's holiness isn't confidence. It's confession. “Woe to me!”

He recognizes his own unworthiness. But God doesn't leave him there. The coal touches his lips and Isaiah hears: *“Your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.”*

This is important. *GOD'S GRACE COMES BEFORE MISSION.*

Why do you think Isaiah recognized his own brokenness when he encountered God? How can shame keep us from answering God's call? What's the difference between

humility and believing you're worthless? How does God's forgiveness change your willingness to serve?

Prayer Focus: *God, remind me that my failures do not disqualify me from being used by You.*

WEDNESDAY — SEND ME

Read Isaiah 6:8; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8 *“Here am I. Send me!” — Isaiah 6:8*

God asks: *“Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”*

Notice, Isaiah doesn't ask for a job description. He doesn't negotiate his salary. He doesn't ask where he's going. He simply says: *“Here am I. Send me!”* This is what surrender looks like.

What makes saying “send me” difficult? What conditions do you tend to place on obedience? Where might God already be sending you? What would change if you stopped asking, “What do I want to do?” and started asking, “Where does God want me?”

Prayer Focus: *God, I am available. Send me where You need me.*

THURSDAY — SEND ME TO THE BROKEN

Read Isaiah 58:6-9; Matthew 25:31-40; Luke 10:25-37 *“Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter?” — Isaiah 58:7*

Isaiah 58 challenges the idea that faith is primarily about religious activity. In it, God asks: “What are you doing for people who are hurting?” So, maybe faith that is lived out looks more like...

Breaking chains.
Feeding the hungry.
Sheltering the oppressed.
Clothing the naked.
Caring for the vulnerable.

Isaiah's message is unmistakable: **WORSHIP THAT DOESN'T LEAD US TOWARD PEOPLE WHO ARE HURTING ISN'T THE WORSHIP GOD DESIRES.**

The Good Samaritan tells the same story. Sometimes being “sent” doesn't mean traveling somewhere. More often, it means noticing the person right in front of us. Who are the people you naturally notice? Who might you overlook? What needs around you have become so familiar that you no longer see them? How does Isaiah 58

challenge a faith that stays inside the church? What is one tangible way you could serve someone who is hurting?

Prayer Focus: *God, open my eyes to the people around me who need Your love, justice, compassion and care.*

FRIDAY — USE ME

Read Isaiah 58:8-12; Isaiah 6:8; Ephesians 2:10

Isaiah 58 gives us a beautiful promise: *“Then your light will break forth like the dawn.* God's people aren't blessed simply so they can enjoy the blessing. They are blessed so they can *BE A BLESSING*.

The dangerous prayer isn't merely: “God, bless me.” It's: “God, use me.”

Use my time. (That you gave me)
Use my money. (That you gave me)
Use my abilities. (That you gave me)
Use my story.
Use my wounds.
Use my influence.
Use my life.

The question isn't whether God has work for us to do. The question is whether we are willing to say: “Here am I.”

What gifts, resources or experiences has God given you that could be used to help someone else? What is one need in your community that breaks your heart? What might God be asking you to do about it? If you prayed “God, use me” every morning, what might change? What is one thing you can do this week to put that prayer into action?

Prayer Focus: *God, use me. Take what I have, who I am and where I am, and use it to make Your kingdom visible.*