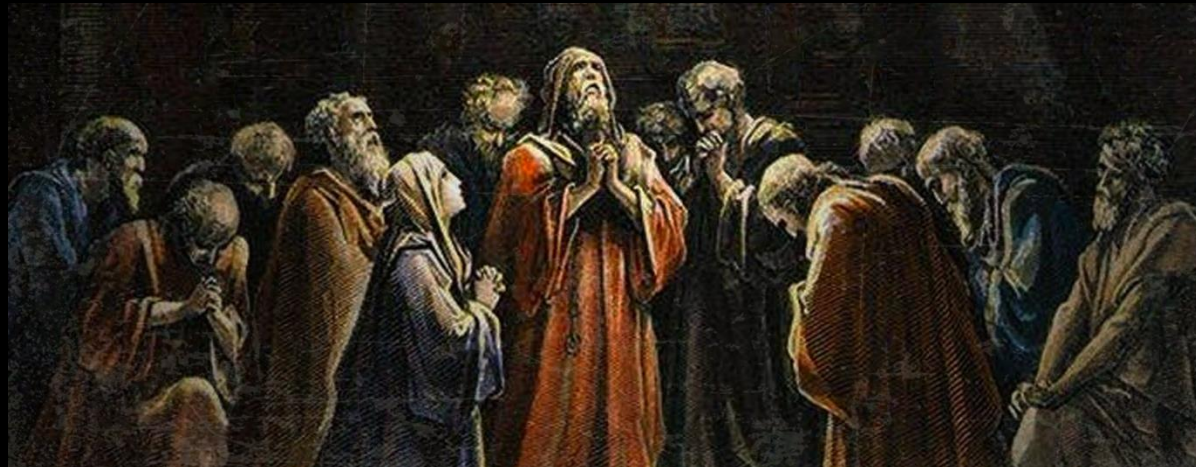


Acts # 6 The Prayer that Changes the World

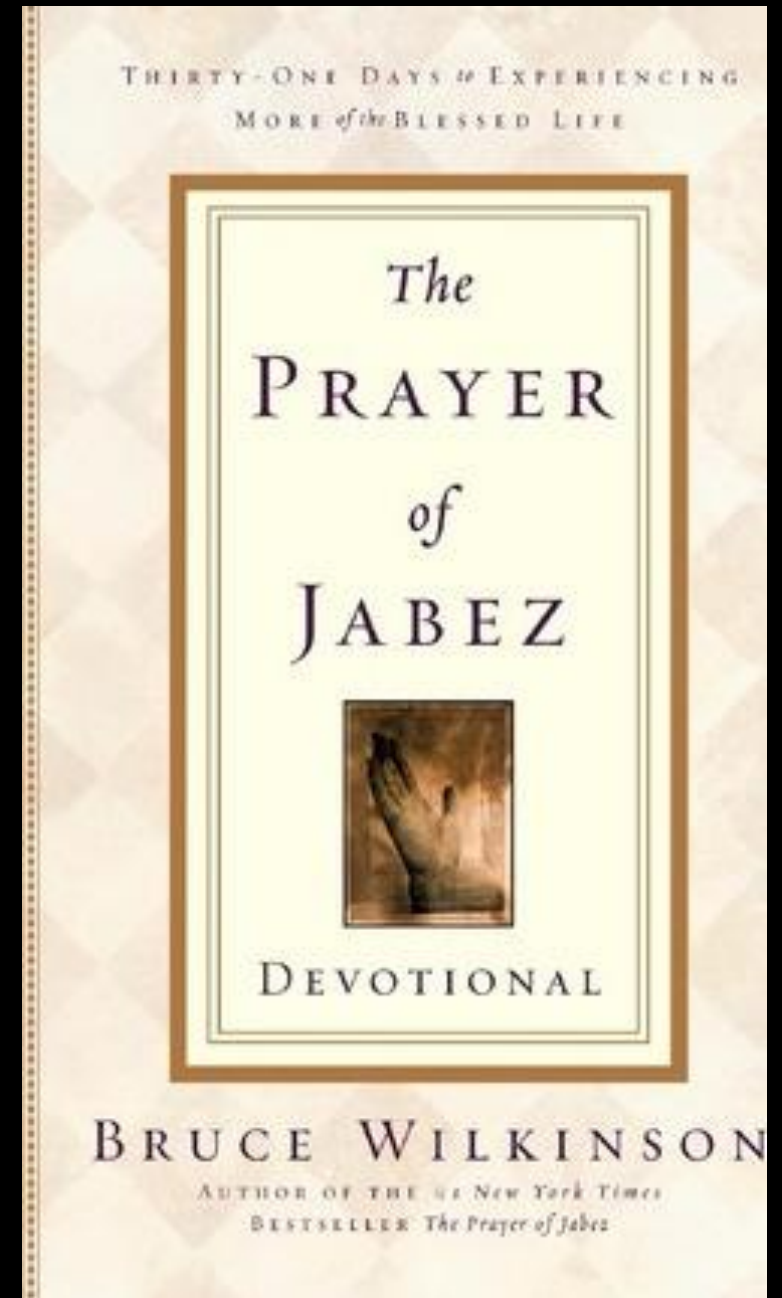
Acts 4:23-31



The Prayer of Jabez

- *Jabez was more honourable than his brothers. His mother had named him Jabez, saying, "I gave birth to him in pain." Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, saying, "Oh that you would bless me indeed and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from the evil one." And God granted his request.*

- 1 Chronicles 4:9–10



God help the outcasts

- *I ask for wealth
I ask for fame
I ask for glory to shine on my name
I ask for love I can possess
I ask for God and his angels to bless me"*
- *I ask for nothing I can get by
But I know so many less lucky than I
Please help my people - the poor and
downtrod
I thought we all were The children of
God?
God help the outcasts - Children of God*



*God help the outcasts - Esmerelda in
The Hunchback of Notre Dame*

Acts 4:23-31

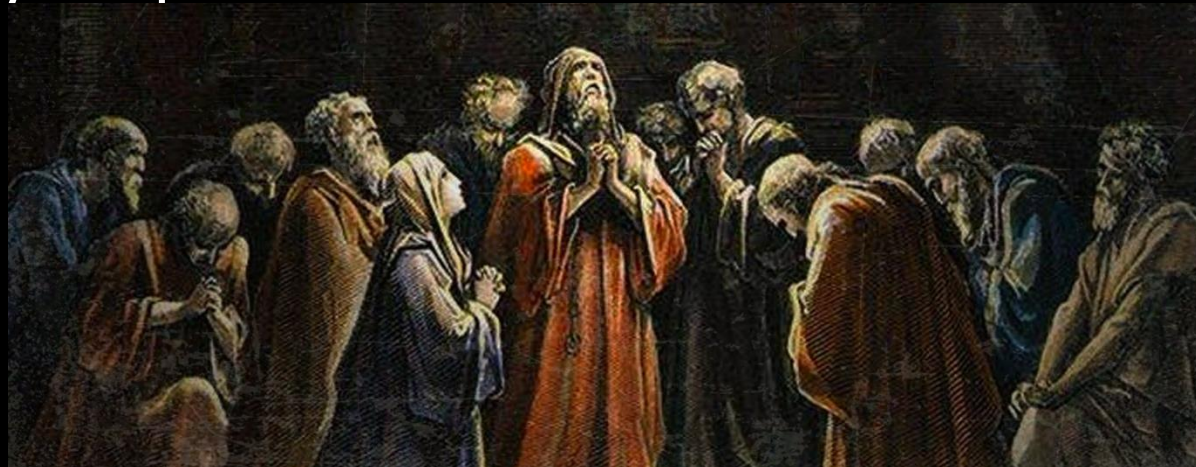


- The religious leaders have instructed the apostles that they must no longer preach any more in the name of Jesus
- *²³ On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. ²⁴ When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. ‘Sovereign Lord,’ they said, ‘you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them.*

• Acts 4:23-24

Recognise the person of our prayer

- *despotes*: the relation of a master to his slave. It implied absolute power over another
- God has both absolute power and absolute goodness. He is sovereign over all things
- Psalm 2 expresses the futility of the world's powers
- “They did what your power and will had decided before hand should happen.”



Recognise the person of our prayer

- When we pray, we must recognise who it is we are praying to
- There is nothing wrong with praying for our needs but before we ask for the gifts, we must acknowledge the Giver



Recognise the person of our prayer

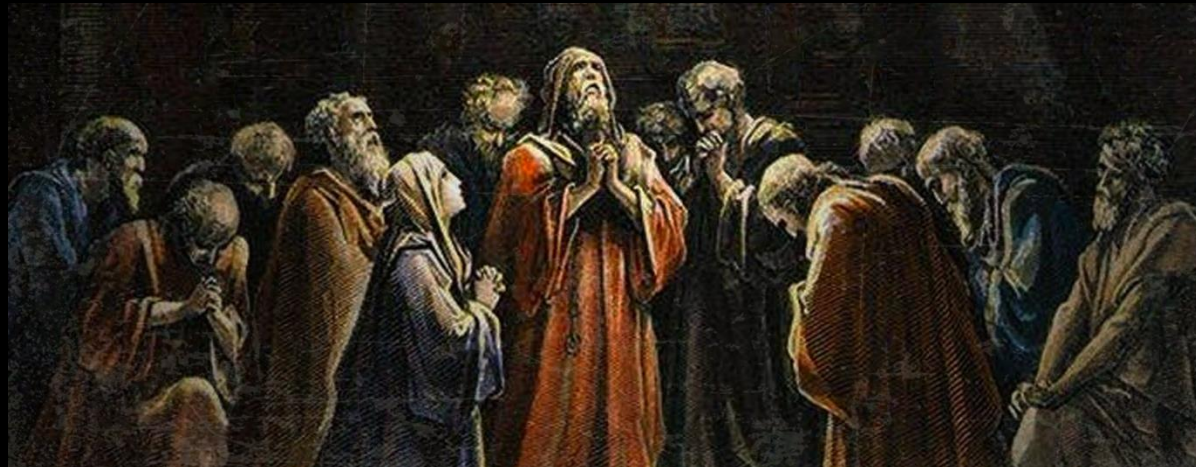
- Take one or more of these attributes and focus on them and praise God for who he is and let your prayer flow out of that:
- *Almighty Author, Benevolent, Compassionate, Deliverer, Everlasting, Faithful, Gracious Guide, Helper, Infinite, Joy, King, Love, Master, Never-failing, Omnipresent, Prince of Peace, Quickening One, Restorer, Shepherd, Truthful, Unfailing, Victorious, Wisdom, X-Bearer, Yearning One, and Zealous Fulfiller.*



- Gertrude Slabach

Recognise the person of our prayer

- Peter and John and the others then prayed for God to enable them to speak his Word with great boldness and to stretch out his hand to heal people through the name of his holy servant, Jesus.
- Notice what they don't pray ...



Receive the power of our prayer

- *³¹ After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.*
- God wants to fill us with his Holy Spirit today. Why? Because Jesus said, “Apart from me, you can do nothing.”

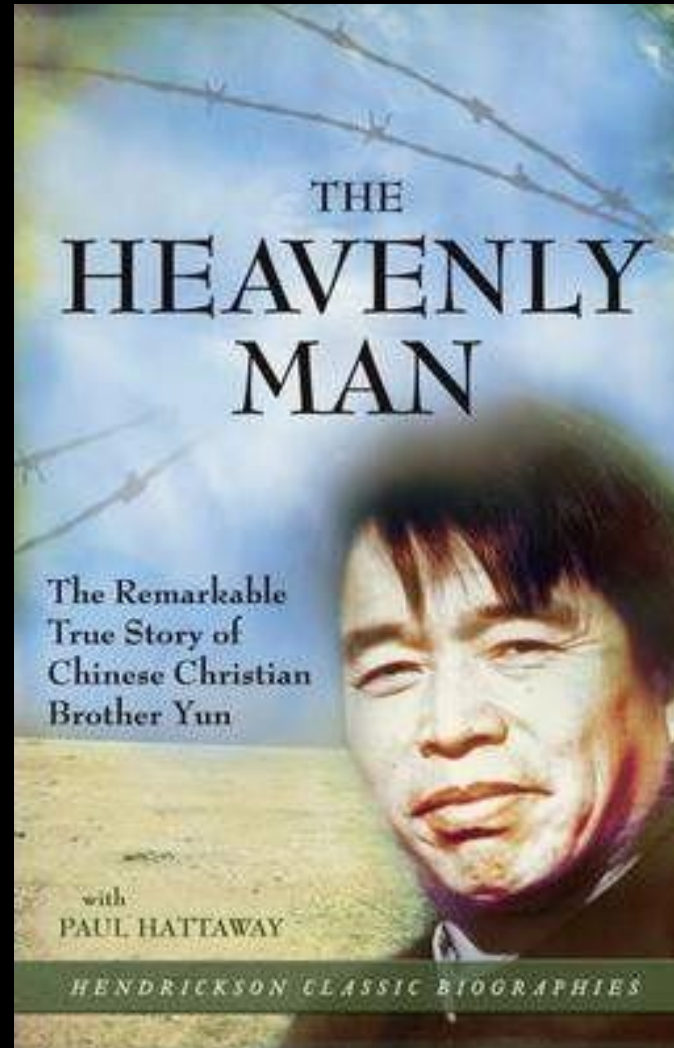


Receive the power of our prayer



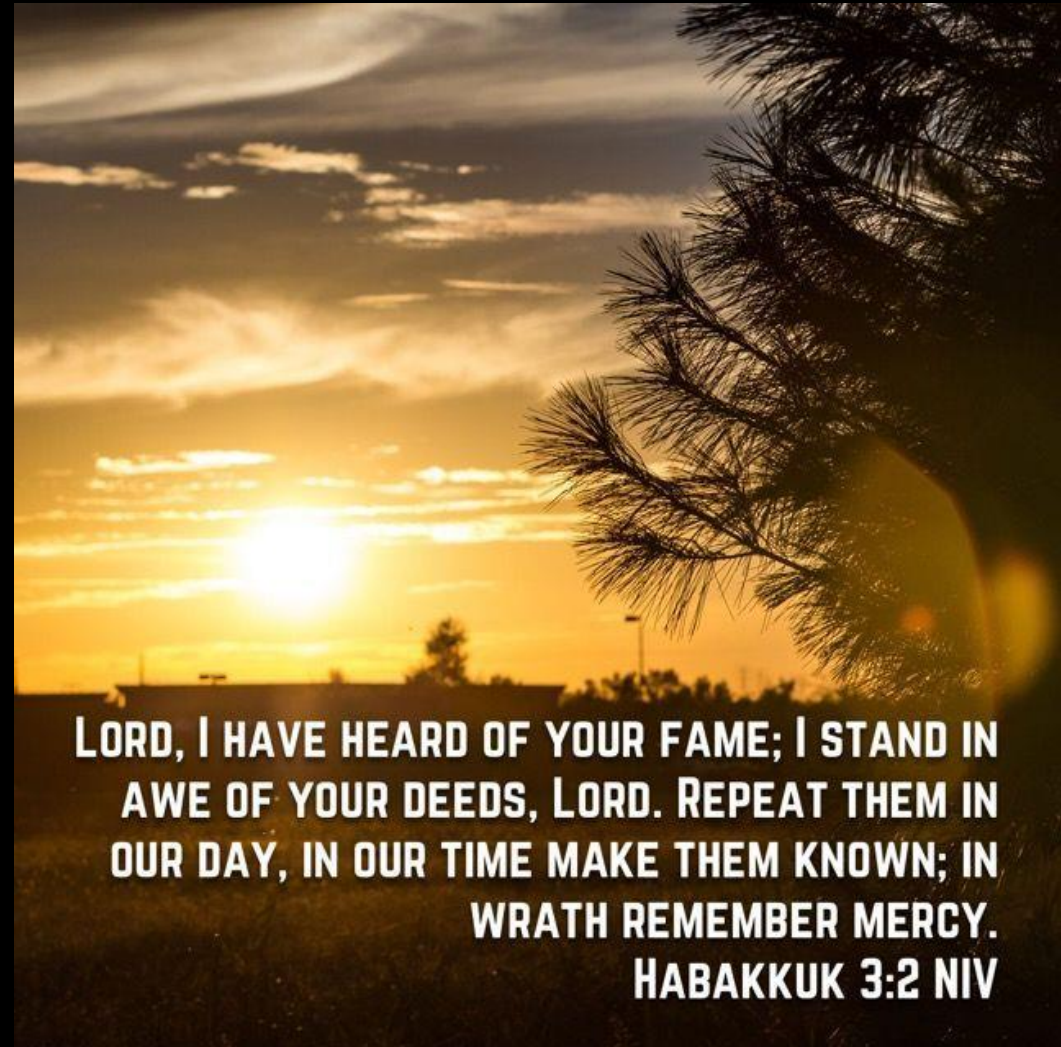
- *So what could I say?
And what could I do?
But offer this heart, oh God
Completely to You*
- *So I'll stand with arms high and
heart abandoned
In awe of the one who gave it all
So I'll stand, my soul Lord to You
surrendered
All I am is Yours (I'll stand)*
 - The Stand, Hillsong United, 2005

Receive the power of our prayer



Receive the power of our prayer

- We do not insist that God work in a certain way in our lives, in our church or in our city. But nor do we give up and say that will never happen here.

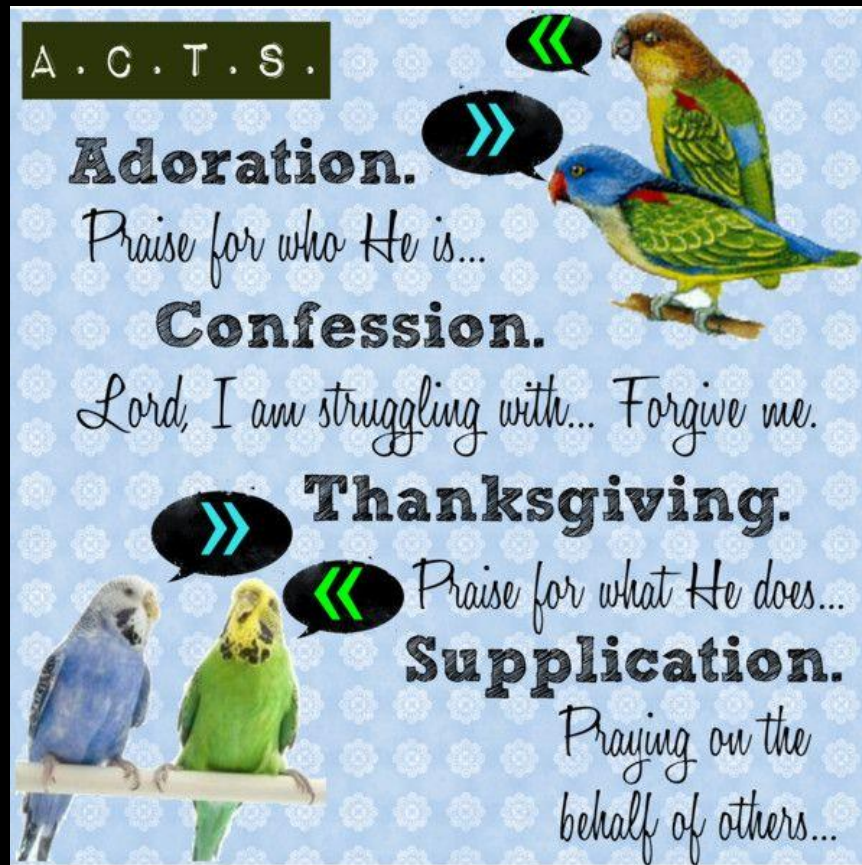


Restore the practice of prayer

- I find prayer difficult!
- ‘I do believe; help me overcome unbelief!’”
- What is the basis of our prayer?
 - God's acceptance of us in Christ
- “The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.” James 5:16. Our righteousness is found in Christ
- Therefore, we can boldly approach the throne of grace to find help in our time of need – Hebrews 4:16



Restore the practice of prayer



- **Some suggestions:**
- Adoration, Confession Thanksgiving, Supplication
- Scripture, Observation, Action Point, Prayer
- Use books of prayers, especially the Psalms. E.g. Psalm 40:4-8
- Step out of your _____ (9) zone - to a place where you have to depend on God.

Restore the practice of prayer

- Allow God into the everyday activities of your life.
 - **Exercise:** Think about your typical ordinary day and brainstorm ways you can do these tasks with God –acknowledging your dependence on him, telling him your concerns and inviting Him to share each moment of the day with you.

Waking up / Washing clothes / Working / Eating
/ Taking a break / Waiting in line / Driving /
Solving a problem / Dealing with an interruption
/ Exercising / Doing homework with my kids /
Cleaning up after dinner / Reading / Watching
TV



A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer on a grassy hill, with a large black cross standing to their left. The background is a dramatic sunset sky with orange and blue hues. The text "Take My Life, and Let it Be" is written in a white, cursive font across the middle of the image, partially overlapping the cross.

Take My Life, and Let it Be