



Sermon Series: Intervention

Sermon Title: Prayer – When We Need Intervention

Week of September 16-22

What issue or situation in my life right now needs God's intervention?

Prayer - our signal to God that we need help/intervention. Michael made this analogy – It is like our bat signal to God (Commissioner Gordon signaling for Batman to come help.)

God listens to the cries of His people. Ask, Do you remember any instances in Scripture when God listened to the cries of His people?

Prayer of Deliverance is the first type of prayer that Michael focused on.

We tend to pray this for deliverance when we feel overwhelmed by circumstances out of our control.

Read Psalm 3:1-8

"O Lord, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me; many are saying of my soul, "There is no salvation for him in God." Selah But you, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. I cried aloud to the Lord, and he answered me from his holy hill. Selah I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the Lord sustained me. I will not be afraid of many thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around. Arise, O Lord! Save me, O my God! For you strike all my enemies on the cheek; you break the teeth of the wicked. Salvation belongs to the Lord; your blessing be on your people! Selah"

Psalms 3:1-8 ESV

Make this statement. God's timing is always for your benefit and for His glory. He will either change your circumstances or your heart.

Ask, How have you seen evidence of this in your life?

The second type of prayer is the Prayer of Salvation .

- not necessarily a sinner's prayer but a prayer of saving us from ourselves - our sin, our shame

Point out that Michael reminds us that this prayer focuses on **What sin do I need forgiveness for where I am ashamed?** What are those habitual sins that seemingly you cannot stop repeating?

Say, Many Christ-followers find themselves doing so well in many areas of their lives but struggle with at times with one particular sin that seems to own them. Jonah found himself running -

Read Jonah 2:2-9

"Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the belly of the fish, saying, "I called out to the Lord, out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice. For you cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your waves and your billows passed over me. Then I said, 'I am driven away from your sight; yet I shall again look upon your holy temple.' The waters closed in over me to take my life; the deep surrounded me; weeds were wrapped about my head at the roots of the mountains. I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever; yet you brought up my life from the pit, O Lord my God. When my life was fainting away, I remembered the Lord, and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple. Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of steadfast love. But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Salvation belongs to the Lord!"

Jonah 2:1-9 ESV

Acknowledge that salvation belongs to God and not of our own doing/works. Confession of our sin and repenting of that sinful action is required. Some times it takes awhile to get the stench of sin off of us. Sinful habits are not easily overcome. It does require that we admit that without Christ we will not be able to overcome any sinful habit. It is not about "do" but surrender.

The third type of prayer is the Prayer of Thanksgiving

Expressing thanks for His divine intervention when He does intervene.

Read Psalm 138

"I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise; I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word. On the day I called, you answered me; my strength of soul you increased. All the

kings of the earth shall give you thanks, O Lord, for they have heard the words of your mouth, and they shall sing of the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord. For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly, but the haughty he knows from afar. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and your right hand delivers me. The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.”
Psalms 138:1-8 ESV

Say this - You and I are the works of His hands. Also, David reminds God that he will have more requests because he is “prone to wander.” He does not use this fact as a license to sin but acknowledges his own weakness and his dependence on God.

Say this - In being thankful, we remember the Giver rather than just the gift. Many times, we can be “thankful” for the gift and forget the One who provided the gift. Be careful that you do not look past God and focus only on what He does “for you.

Jesus taught His disciples how to pray - The Lord’s Prayer

“Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”

Matthew 6:9-10, 12-13 ESV

Pray to our Father in Heaven

Hallowed - He is not our Disneyland Dad or Buddy Jesus

Your Kingdom – Proper perspective on what God desires vs. what we settle for.

Not our will but Yours alone. Acknowledging God’s authority over all.

Our daily bread -Will you provide for us to today? We run ahead of God and praying this requires we trust Him now.

Forgive us our debts/sins as we have forgiven others.

Lead us not into temptation- have clear eyes and heart to see the way of escape

Deliver us from the evil of our own hearts and the evil outside of us.

Throughout scripture, we read many accounts of people from many different backgrounds and circumstances but the Bible but in every situation, it is filled with God being God.

Sin and disobedience is not new and God is ready to intervene in our lives -His Son has already been provided.

Allow participants to share any additional insights and be sensitive to those who may need further attention with things they may be experiencing.

Take time for prayer requests to be shared.

Spend some time praying through the types of prayer discussed.