



## CELL GUIDE

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|-------|------------------|---------|-------------------------|
| TOPIC | The Call to Pray | SPEAKER | DSP Edric Sng           |
| THEME | Vision Series    | DATE    | 25 and 26 February 2023 |

# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

This week's sermon on the Call to Pray is part four of the eight-part Vision series. The topics are ones that the Lord directed our Senior Pastor towards, and they are essential, non-negotiable actions that BBTC is called upon to do as a Church. The call to pray is an age-old one, and one of BBTC's goals for the year is to help its members grow in the spiritual discipline of prayer.

## THE CALL TO PRAY

Prayer is a direct connection to our powerful God. In 1 Timothy 2:1-8, Paul urges us to pray. He gives answers to the following questions:

### 1. Why do we pray?

We pray for personal growth and benefit, which happen even as we pray for others. In Philippians 4:6, Paul advised the troubled Philippians to speak to the Lord and give thanks to Him. Although the source of our worries will not go away immediately after we pray, the act of prayer can transform our hearts and make us godlier. It can change the way we view the challenges before us (2 Chronicles 7:14). That is the peace of God.

We also pray for people who need to be saved. We need to pray for labourers to bring the Good News into the field, so that more pre-believers can be reached for the Lord.

We should also remember to pray for people that we do not get along with. Although it is human instinct to avoid them, we need to remember that there is a reason they are acting in an unpleasant manner; they need God's help in their lives.

We also pray to God because it pleases Him (Psalm 5:3,7, Psalm 141:2).

### 2. To whom do we pray?

We pray through Jesus Christ - our Saviour, Mediator and Friend. (1 Tim 2:5). Sin separated us from God, but God sent Jesus to sacrifice Himself and pay the price for our sins. Jesus, who is now at the right hand of God, continues to intercede for us (Rom 8:24; Heb 7:25, 1 Jhn 2:1). To intercede is to

pray on someone's behalf. This means that as we pray, Jesus is praying for us as well. The Sinner's Prayer is an acknowledgement that it is through Jesus that we are saved, as we will inevitably sin even as we strive to become more Christlike.

### 3. For whom do we pray?

We pray for anyone the Holy Spirit prompts us to pray for. These can include those close to us (friends and family), those close to God (Church leaders and more), those far from us (people affected by the disasters in Turkey, Syria, Ukraine etc), those far from God, those who need salvation and those in authority. Those in authority include our Church leaders, national leaders, leaders in our workplace and more. They have been given responsibilities and are held to a higher standard than others. We are to obey and submit to them (Heb 13:7 and 17). Sometimes, our leaders do not lead from a position of joy; some may even feel discouraged. We should pray for our leaders, even if they are people we do not like. The Lord will turn our hearts from being critical and may someday reveal to us why they have been placed in a position of power.

### 4. What do we pray?

Our prayers can include:

- Petitions: the expression of needs; us making requests for ourselves
- Prayers: speaking to God (about someone)
- Intercession: making requests for others' behalf
- Thanksgiving: expressions of gratitude

The Bible contains many exemplary prayers by prophets, apostles, kings, leaders, and of course, our Lord Jesus Christ. BBTC will hold a Prayer Sermon on the last week of every month, during which we will study these famous prayers.

### 5. How do we pray?

In 1 Timothy 2:8, Paul describes his hope for men everywhere to pray while lifting up holy hands, without anger or disputing. We need to be committed to the need to pray, and invite God to act in all aspects of our lives. We need to be engaged in the act of prayer, lifting our hands to worship God. We need to be aligned and surrender to God. BBTC needs to comprise people who are Aligned, Committed and Engaged (ACE) in the same body of Christ.

## CONCLUSION

Prayer is a fundamental aspect of Christian life, and as a Church, it is our duty to remove obstacles between people and God through prayer. We need to be committed and engaged as we pray, and continue to hunger for God.

# QUESTIONS

1. Share about the first time you prayed aloud for someone. What thoughts ran through your mind? What tips do you have for fellow Christians who are struggling to pray for others?

2. DSP Edric talked about how the people we do not like are the ones we need to pray for. We may interact with leaders we do not like, and wonder why God placed them in a position of power.

- How does prayer help you change the way you deal with others?
- Despite how we may feel about these people, pray for them with your cell group.

3. DSP Edric shared about the Asbury Revival event, where a large congregation of Asbury University students, prompted by the Holy Spirit, continued to pray after service. This event lasted 19 days and eventually drew up to 15,000 people each day. What can we do in order to experience a similar hunger for God?