

## */\*Power Through Prayer*

### **Week 1 (Feb. 28st - Mar 6th)**

Remove our unbelief and remember His Power

Read *Matthew 13:53-58*

*“And He did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief.” Matthew 13:58 (HCSB)*

This is one of the saddest verses in the Bible. It is the account of Jesus going to His hometown to teach. When people heard Him, they were astonished. However, their astonishment did not lead them to respond to His teaching in obedience and faith. Their lives could have been radically changed for the better. Their community could have been radically changed. However, no positive changes occurred in the people or the town of Nazareth. Why? The Scripture gives the reason, “Because of their unbelief.” Unbelief shuts the door on the transformational power of Jesus. Faith opens the floodgates to that same transformational power.

Read *Jeremiah 32:17-44*

*“Ah, Lord God! You Yourself made the heavens and earth by Your great power and with Your outstretched arm. Nothing is too difficult for You!” Jeremiah 32:17 (HCSB)*

### **Week 2 (Mar. 7th - Mar. 13th)**

Ask, Seek, Knock

Read *Matthew 7:7-12*

*“Keep asking, and it will be given to you. Keep searching, and you will find. Keep knocking, and the door will be opened to you.” Matthew 7:7 (HCSB)*

The Bible is clear that God answers the fervent prayers of His people according to His will, and we know it is His will for His church to be revitalized and healthy. Perhaps revival tarries because we give up on prayer too soon.

A small girl watched as her mother smeared cold cream on her face. She asked, “Mommy, why are you doing that?” “To make myself beautiful,” the mother replied. In a few moments, as the mother started wiping off the cream, the child asked, “Are you giving up already?”

We should never give up in prayer as we ask God to revitalize our hearts, churches, and our communities. In fact, we should pray regularly and intensely until the answer comes. The verbs “ask, seek, and knock” are expressed in a form that denotes continuous action. Jesus is literally saying, “Ask, and keep on asking. Seek, and keep on seeking. Knock, and keep on knocking.”

**Week 3 (Mar. 14th - 20th)**

Be broken before God

Read *Nehemiah 1:1-11*

*“When I heard these words, I sat down and wept. I mourned for a number of days, fasting and praying before the God of heaven.” Nehemiah 1:4 (HCSB)*

Brokenness is often what God uses to reveal vision and bring revival. Nehemiah serves as an example of a leader who was broken over a city and its people. Enemies destroyed the wall around Jerusalem, leaving the city in a vulnerable position. The people were in great trouble and disgrace. Nehemiah sought God’s heart and followed His leadership. He was available for God to use and in a state of mind that God would use him.

**Week 4 (Mar. 21st - 27th)**

Ask God to breathe life into our churches and community

Read *Ezekiel 37:1-14*

*“This is what the Lord God says to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you will live.” Ezekiel 37:5 (HCSB)*

Parched and bleached by the sun, the brittle bones scattered across the valley presented a vision that summarized two words in the prophet’s mind—death and discouragement. The only thing more discouraging than the vision itself was the fact that God’s own people were represented by these abandoned bones. They had died, and their revitalization required significant intervention by God.

This vision challenged Ezekiel’s faith. God asked him an unthinkable question, “Son of man, can these bones live?” He replied, “Lord God, only You know.” Ezekiel’s response revealed his thought, “If these dried bones live again, it will require a miracle from You, God.” He can bring life where we see death, light where we see darkness, and joy where we see sorrow. God can bring salvation where we can only see sin!

**Week 5 (Mar. 28th - Apr 3rd)**

Trust Him for the increase

Read *Acts 2:36 - 41*

*“Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Acts 2:38 (HCSB)*

Sometimes we must be reminded that we share the truth, but only God can impart the truth. It is our responsibility to tell the story of Jesus and then trust God to save the soul.

The great harvest of souls, as found in the book of Acts, took place because the church prayed fervently, shared frequently, and trusted fully. They relied on the Holy Spirit to power the church and the message of Jesus to change the masses.