

# Letting Christ Lay His Burden on Us

by Santosh Poonen

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*This sermon emphasizes the importance of praying with a burden, following the examples of Jesus in Gethsemane and the disciples in the garden. It highlights the need to pray for God's burden to be laid upon us, to watch and pray to avoid entering into temptation, and to seek the Holy Spirit's guidance in our prayers.*

**Scripture:** Matthew 26:36, Mark 10:35, Luke 19:29, Romans 8:26

**Topics:** "Praying with Burden", "Seeking the Holy Spirit's Guidance"

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## Description

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## Transcript

If you've been following along, the primary class is going through Romans 8 and so it's a wonderful chapter just to see, for example, last week when through their memory verse they taught us that the mind set on the flesh is not even able to please God. If you're trying to please God and you find that you're not even able to do so, a big reason for that may be because your mind is set on the flesh. Let's look at that.

I'll begin there Romans chapter 8, Romans 8 verse 6. The mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace. There's only two ways to live life, either set on the flesh or set on the spirit. There's no in-between Christian life, in Christendom you'll hear that you say a prayer and repentance is not preached, daily repentance after you're born again is not emphasized, and so you end up with a lot of people who think they're Christians but their mind is still set on the flesh and they think they have life, but they don't because Romans 8, 6 says the mind set on the flesh is death.

But the mind that is set is set, that means it's a continual being set on the spirit, is life and peace. Because the mind set on the flesh is actually hostile toward God. If you're thinking about yourself and how you can make it in this world and how you can provide more for yourself and that preoccupies your mind in an earthly centered, self-centered way, you're an enemy of God.

That's what Romans 8, 7 says. For it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so. And it's no wonder then that you end up with people who say a prayer, perhaps sincerely, and come to Jesus, ask for Him to forgive their sins and He does.

And He wants to have the Holy Spirit grow within them, but their mind is still set on the flesh. The mind is still set on themselves and the things of this world. And they find that after they have said this prayer, they're not even able to please God.

If you come across such people, whether they call themselves Christian or not, I pray that our lives will be an example. Say, we're not doing it perfectly, but we're learning the secret of Romans 8, 6 and 7, which says that if I set my mind on the Spirit, it's life and peace. And the more I draw my mind away from the flesh, from the things of this world, I will find that I'm able to do so, to please God.

And those who are in the flesh cannot please God. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. We'll keep that in mind.

I'd like to speak today about prayer. I've been meditating on this for a number of months now. Just prayer, the mystery of prayer.

I'll be honest, I can't wrap my mind around how prayer works. It's a mystery. It really is a mystery to me.

And the more I've looked at the Word of God and examined what the Word of God has to say, the more I've walked with God and gone to know Him, it's even more of a mystery. I'll be honest with you. But it's as mysterious as the resurrection.

There's no explanation for how God can allow somebody to die and then raise them back to life. There's just no logical explanation for it. There's no scientific... You can't go into a medical book and figure out how a dead person can somehow come back to life.

They have no ability to come back to life, and yet they do. There's no medical explanation for it. And I find prayer is a little bit like that.

It's a mystery. And I think of it like what Jesus said, I praise thee, Matthew 11, 25, Father, that you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and revealed them to babes. And the goal of my message this morning is that if you find that your prayer life is lacking in some way, I'm not talking about coming to the prayer meetings, which I hope you do, or praying when we're here together.

I'm talking about a continual praying without ceasing, where throughout the day there's a communion between you and your Father in heaven. And if that's not there, don't be discouraged. Don't walk away from this meeting or from this message beating yourself up that it's not there.

I pray that you'll have hope and children for you from the youngest, however old you are, however young you are, that you can learn that Jesus wants to be your friend, for you to communicate with him, to have fellowship with him, to talk to him, to hear him in a real way. And I pray that we will all experience that. But it's revealed to babes.

And so, children, you actually have the potential to come into a true prayer life more easily than us adults. Because God has hidden it from us. We're more intelligent than you.

Now, actually, I think some of you kids are probably more intelligent than us. But we've been trained in the things of this world a little too much, a little bit more. And we have to unlearn that.

And so, children, if you're six years old or five or something like that, and you haven't really, you're not even in first grade yet, you have an advantage that we don't have. You can remain a babe. Jesus said,

Matthew 11 25, I praise you Father.

Let's look at that verse very quickly, so you know it. The things of heaven, God has hidden from the wise and the intelligent and revealed to babes. In fact, Jesus was so excited about that, that he said, I praise you.

I praise you, Matthew 11 verse 25, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things. This is an intentional act of God. It's not just accident.

God sees a wise intelligent person trying to find an answer to some spiritual thing. And God says, I'm gonna hide it from you. Do you want to be such a person? You're playing hide-and-seek with God.

I'm not trying to be silly. Please understand. If you're playing hide-and-seek with God, you'll never find him.

If God is hiding himself from you, you'll never find him. It's impossible to find him. And if God has hidden these things, the only way to find him is to forsake our wisdom and intelligence, our reliance on our own intelligence and understanding.

But he's revealed them to babes. So the babes don't even have to try. He says, here, let me show it to you.

It's like somebody playing hide-and-seek again, to use that same analogy and says, here I am. You can find me. I'm not even gonna try to hide myself.

You see the opposite here? God hiding himself from some and revealing himself to others. And you'll see that if you observe Christians. There are some who are extremely smart, extremely wise and intelligent.

They might have bachelor's degrees, master's degrees, PhDs in the things of this world or even in theology. They go to seminary and think that's where they will find God and they don't. Because God has hidden these things.

You could read the Bible with all your wisdom and intelligence and God says, it's just a book for you. And then some other child who can barely read or somebody and I've met some godly men who are illiterate or can barely read, in whom I see God has revealed truths. That's beyond the written pages of this book.

That's what I long for. Oh, I thank God for this book. It's more and more precious to me.

But I never want to read it with my wisdom and intelligence. And I see that the people who have blessed me the most by their life and their teaching have been the ones who have come to God. Whether they're intelligent or not, you can't help it if you're intelligent.

If you are, that's fine. God will use it for the things of this world and he can use it for the things of the kingdom as well. If you forsake your confidence in that intelligence and say, Lord, I come to you as a babe.

So I want to be such a person. You know, we believe that every Christian, anyone who calls himself a Christian, must live as Jesus lived, must walk as Jesus walked. That's 1st John 2 verse 6. We say that often in this church, but one of the things the Holy Spirit has been impressing on my heart is to not just say that verse and say, yeah, I want to live as Jesus lived.

I will be conformed into his image. But to more and more examine the life of Jesus. Not only the facts of his life that we know from the Gospels.

See, in the Gospels, you see the facts of Jesus' life and his teaching. But then in the Epistles, we see more of his nature. What was the inner life like? I look at the Epistles as revealing what the first 30 years of Jesus' life was like.

What does it mean to be Christ-like in nature? And that actually comes first, as we heard last week. Let's pay attention to our life. Let's pay attention to the life of Christ in us and then to our teaching.

So the life of Christ comes first, which is probably why it's good that there's 23 books on the life of Christ, the inner life of Christ, and then four books about the ministry of Christ in the Gospels. But if we really believe that, this is what the Holy Spirit's been impressing on my heart, that if you really say that we must live as Jesus lived and walk as he walked, then if we see that Jesus did certain things a certain way, we say, well, that's how we must do it too. For example, you look at how Jesus preached.

And then you look at how most preachers in Christendom preach. You'll see a difference. If you look at how Jesus did miracles, how he cast out demons, and he told them, don't say a word about it.

He never bragged about the miracles that he did. And yet you'll see almost every preacher who thinks they've done miracles talking about it. And they'll say, oh, I did this and God used me to do this miracle.

Again, most of it, I believe, is not true at all. You look at how Jesus prayed and what Jesus told us about prayer. That's how we know what real prayer is.

As you've heard Zach say often, Jesus is our dictionary. It's not a concordance. It's not an earthly dictionary.

If you want to know humility, if you want to know grace, if you want to know peace, if you want to know joy, if you want to know love, if you want to know prayer, you don't go to Oxford or Merriam-Webster dictionary and say, what is prayer? You don't do a concordance search. Well, you can do a concordance search on where all prayer comes and what does it mean and get some theological answer or prayer. You look to the life of Jesus.

And if the Holy Spirit is within you, he will reveal to you the prayer life of Jesus in a way that's not even recorded in this book. And you get to know. It will be confirmed by the things in this book, but the Holy Spirit will teach you how to pray.

So you look at John 11. Here's a phrase that Jesus said about prayer that has become a challenge for me. If I want to live as Jesus lived and walk as Jesus walked, I ought to increasingly come to a place where my prayers are becoming more like the prayers of Jesus.

Not necessarily in the words that I say, because we're not praying in Aramaic, which is the language that Jesus used when he was here on this earth. So to be more Christ-like in our prayer doesn't mean that we learn Hebrew or Aramaic. It means that we learn the spirit of Jesus' prayer and pray the same way.

And we look at the fruit of Jesus' prayers and say, Lord, Father, if you heard Jesus' prayer and it was answered in this way, and you tell me now I ought to pray as Jesus prayed, 1st John 2 verse 6, so then Lord, you must do the same for me. And if I see that, if I don't see the same outcome of my prayers as

Jesus had in his prayers, who's my foremost example, then I don't just say, well, it was Jesus. He's the Son of God and so he's a little bit special.

Yes, he is the Son of God. He will never not be the Son of God. But the devil wants you to think that the fact that the Son of Man, who also Jesus was, when he prayed on this earth was somehow different than you and I, sons and daughters of men and women.

So you look at John 11 41, just before Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. Now I want to emphasize that our calling is not necessarily to do all the things that Jesus did. You and I may never raise somebody from the dead.

If God wants to, he'll use you. That's fine. You must have the faith for it, that if there's ever a situation where it's impressed on you that the Father is going to lead you very clearly and specifically to raise somebody from the dead or to do anything, that you'll do it in the grace and the power of God.

But here's what I want you to see. More than even the physical fact of Lazarus's resurrection, look at what Jesus said. So they removed the stone.

Then Jesus raised his eyes and said, Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I thank you that you have heard me. He's not even said the prayer yet.

He says, Father, I thank you that you've heard me. He's giving thanks before he's actually asking the request. And then he says, I know, I knew that you always hear me.

I knew that you always hear me. And then he says, but because of the people standing around and for Santos's sake in 2022 and all these other dear brothers and sisters, so they would know that the Father always heard Jesus for their sakes. I have said this out loud so that they may believe that you sent me so that you too would have faith that the Father wants.

I ought to be able to say that the Father always hears me. Let me ask you, dear brother, dear sister, and even dear children, do you believe without a doubt, without a shadow of doubt, that when you pray, the Father is listening to you? Don't imagine it. Don't just say, well, of course, yeah, I said it out loud.

So you must have heard me. No. Do you know in your heart he heard you? It's sealed.

It was recorded in heaven. He wrote it down. Oh, how it will change the way we live our lives when we say, Father Jesus, I want to start praying as you prayed.

So that I too can say, I knew that you always heard what I said. In John 8, he says, I know that you are with me because I only do the things that please you. I only do the things that please you, Father.

So you're always with me. I mean, I have that relationship with my wife. I know that she always hears what I say.

And that's that bridal relationship that God wants to have, that Jesus wants to have with us. And I said it's a mystery, but and still we pray. Let's turn to James 5. The mystery for me is that God knows the future.

He knows exactly what's going to happen. He knows the end from the beginning, we are told. And how do you go to somebody who knows the end from the beginning and then say, I would like you to do something, or I would like you to change a particular circumstance.

That's the mystery. I can't explain. And I don't believe I ever will be able to explain it with my human mind.

That the God who knows the end from the beginning invites us to move his hand. The God who knows the end from the beginning invites you to move his hand. You'll see that throughout scripture.

When Hannah, 1 Samuel, the very first chapters of that wonderful book, had no child, she prayed and she cried out and she couldn't care less who was listening to her. Didn't care that the priest who was supposed to be in touch with God wasn't in touch with God and thought she was drunk. But she was crying out to God.

She forgot about everybody else. She had such a need, such a desperation within her heart and then God answered her prayer. God specifically gave her a child after she prayed.

Now you can, the intelligent one will say, well God knew he was going to give her a child anyway, right? So what was the point of her prayer? And let me tell you this, I believe with all my heart that if Hannah had not prayed, she would not have received a child. That I believe. Because we're commanded to pray.

And let the intelligent and the wise people say, well what's the point of prayer then if God's going to do whatever he wants to do anyway? If my children are going to end up in heaven or in hell, what does it matter if I pray? Oh I tell you, if you leave it to the devil to determine the future of your children or their self-will, I don't know what will happen. But I pray for our children, my own children, but for every child in this church. I want you to know that.

Not to be impressed with me, but God has given us as elders a burden. And I hope all of you adults, you have a burden for the children in this church, that not one of them will be lost. And I'm praying in faith that God will do that.

Now you might say, well is God going to overpower their self-will, their free will that he has and all that stuff? I say, I'm not going to try to explain that. I don't know. I believe in free will.

I believe God will never take away our free will. But I also believe in the power of God. And I don't know how these two mix.

That's all I can say. But I say God wants me to pray. And I'm not going to stop praying for my children, for our children, until Christ comes.

And I believe that the prayers I pray, like you've heard me say often, will outlive me. Like they did for George Muller, who prayed for specific people and long after he died and was in the presence of Jesus, God answered his prayer here on this earth. Because we serve an eternal God.

He's not limited by the fact that I'm here on this earth for a finite amount of time. And so if on your deathbed you think, well Lord those those prayers that you laid on my heart to pray, you haven't answered. But I'm going to pray.

My last breath will be, Lord answer my prayer. I'm going to charge the gates of hell praying that way. And then I see Jesus face to face and I'll see clearly, no longer dimly, and I'll see how he will answer that prayer.

And I will be at rest. James 5, we're told verse 13. Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray.

Prayer is a command. Don't try to figure it out. Don't try to analyze it.

Pray. And if that suffering continues for a five years, pray. If it continues for 10 years, pray.

You must pray if you're suffering. Dear brother, dear sister, dear child, if you're suffering, whether it's a physical ailment, an emotional ailment, a spiritual ailment, if you're suffering, you must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises.

That's why we have prayer and praise in our meetings. Because there are some who are cheerful, sing praises. Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him.

Please do that. We invite you. We don't have a time where we do it publicly but according to this verse, we see that you can call for us elders and we'll meet you.

And we can anoint you with oil if you'd like us to. And we'll pray over you and for you and with you and we'll continue to pray. Let him call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

And the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick. And the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.

Now this is a question we ask if we've ever prayed for you. You know that we ask you this first of all. Have you committed any sin? There are some sicknesses that are a result of sin according to this passage.

So we'll ask you first of all, is there unconfessed sin in your life? If there is, all our laying on of hands and anointing of oil will be of no use. Because you haven't forsaken that sin. But if you forsake that sin, confess it.

It will be forgiven you. Therefore confess your sins to one another and pray for one another so that you may be healed. As you've heard us say often, the context of confessing our sins to one another is here.

In the context of elders praying for a man or woman who is sick. And that sickness is because of sin. And he says the effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

And then he talks about the story of Elijah. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours. Which means that he too had this logical mind.

That's one way that I think about Elijah having a nature like ours. Elijah when the Lord told him go and pray that that there will not be rain. He didn't sit there because he had a nature like ours.

He didn't sit there and think well Lord, if there's not going to be rain, what's the point of my praying? You're not going to give the rain, right? And nothing would have happened. Elijah could not have been used by God. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours.

And yet he prayed earnestly that it would not rain. God told him to pray and he didn't just say okay Lord, let it not rain. You see, see the spirit that Elijah had.

God told him go and pray that would not rain. And he prayed earnestly. There was not well Lord, okay I'm just going to record the prayer because you asked me to pray.

Pray for your children that they will all be disciples of the Lord Jesus. Say okay Lord, I pray that all my children will be disciples of Jesus. Check the box then go on with not praying for them anymore.

Look at the prayer of Elijah for the thing that the Lord told him to pray for. Even though the Lord told him to pray, Elijah prayed earnestly. Are you praying earnestly for your children? Earnestly.

The Lord I'm teaching them, I'm giving them your word and we have the memory verses and all that. Pray earnestly. Oh pray earnestly brothers and sisters.

Our children is just an example. There are many other things God wants us to pray for. But he prayed earnestly that it would not rain.

And it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. Then the Lord told him okay now pray that it will rain. And he prayed again.

I believe earnestly. Lord don't let it rain now. Let it rain now Lord.

You've said, you've put this burden on my heart. You've spoken to me. Now he prayed earnestly.

Oh I want to emphasize here that Elijah prayed earnestly for the thing that the Lord told him to pray for. It wasn't just a ritual prayer. Now think about it dear brothers and sisters.

When we pray before the meeting, we meet at 10-15 for 15 minutes or so. We pray before the meeting. Oh Lord bless this meeting.

Let it go. Is it sort of just a casual, yeah Lord thank you for this day and bless the meeting we're here. Heal all those who are sick.

Now I'm not trying to mock any prayer. Please understand. But is there an earnestness? Whether it's manifest in how you pray, the fervor, the zeal with which you pray.

I'm not talking about an emotional stirring either. But is there a burning? Is there a fervor? Is there a zeal? Is there an earnestness within your heart for what you're praying for? Oh then God will answer. And then he prayed again and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit.

So the mystery is that God knows the future and yet he asks us to move his hand as we see here. Let's go back to Romans chapter 8. And one of the first things I'd like us to see is that we don't know how to pray. If you think you know how to pray, think again.

You actually don't know how to pray. The disciples realized this. Because see the disciples at the age of when Jesus was 30.

So they would have been in their late 20s. I believe they were all good religious Jews who were raised in the law of God. They were law abiding Jews.

Otherwise God would not have picked them. They had their flaws of course. But they honored the law of God.

The Jewish law of God. And so I believe they would have all been raised in good homes where they were taught to pray. And they would have gone to the synagogues where they would have seen people praying.

The Pharisees especially. Long prayers. Religious prayers.

Prayers full of language. And that's what they saw. But then they saw Jesus praying.

And that's when they go to Matthew 6 and they said Lord we don't know how to pray. And you could have said well didn't you watch the Pharisees? Yeah we we can say the same words. But you're praying differently Jesus.

There's something about. Have you thought about it? When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. They already knew how to pray like the Pharisees.

Like a good Jew. And the parallel for us today is that you probably know how to play pray like a good religious Christian. How to say the right words.

You start with Father this. And you end with in Jesus name Amen. And you ask for certain things.

There's a format. Use those words. And then when you see a man or a woman who knows how to pray or more than that.

You say Lord Jesus how did you pray? And then it'll change the way you pray. Say Lord teach me how to pray like you prayed. I want to pray like you prayed Lord.

Not not even like so-and-so man of God George Mueller. Yeah he's a wonderful example. Hudson Taylor.

Wonderful example. All these men of God I hear about how they prayed. And you answered their prayers.

That's great Lord. But you are the greatest example of all. How did you pray? Have you heard from Jesus? Have you learned from Jesus how he prayed? I hope after this message you will.

That the essence of what you get from this message will be. Lord I want to learn from you how to pray. And it will change the way I pray.

And you'll start to answer. Because in the same way that the father always heard Jesus. You will also hear always hear me.

Little child. It's wonderful. Romans 8 we read in verse 26.

In the middle of verse 26 it says we do not know how to pray as we should. Very very important to remember. Very especially important for those of us who are raised in Christian homes where we heard prayer.

And we hear prayer all the time. In a quote-unquote Christian nation where they have prayer in the White House. And prayer in the Senate.

And all this stuff. And there's prayer is used as a common word. And then we say Lord I see a lot of prayer.

But I don't even want to devalue the word prayer by using it in that context. Teach me how to pray. Is the cry of your heart dear brothers and sisters what it was for the disciples in Matthew 6? Teach us how to pray.

Or it was in Luke I think that he says teach us how to pray. And then he teaches them this prayer. And it's not just reciting that what they call the Lord's Prayer.

Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name. And you recite it like a ritual. No.

You know sadly many Christian denominations have missed it. Where they just recite that prayer as a ritual. I never pray that prayer honestly.

Just reciting it as a ritual. I pray every part of that prayer in faith. And I use my own words.

So we don't know how to pray as we are. But what does it mean then? How can we really pray as we should? And I believe you see a few things here in Romans 8 that would be good to look at. First of all what you see in verse 15.

Romans 8 verse 15. You have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again. But you received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out Abba Father.

The spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God. So first of all we must see that we're praying to a daddy. You're talking to a daddy.

Dear children when you pray. I love it actually that you all children when you pray in this church and I listen to your prayers. I see that you're talking to a daddy.

A heavenly father. You call him father. You call him father.

He says heavenly father. My heavenly father. My daddy in heaven.

You've received the spirit of adoption. If you just pray like the rest of the world does. Or even the rest of Christendom does.

Without having received this spirit of adoption within you. When you're truly born again the Holy Spirit comes as a seed within you and it changes the way you pray. That's one of the first thing that happens.

So remember you're praying to a daddy. Let's go down to verse 22 now. And then he talks about how the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.

So there is a groaning and a pain within creation. It might look like the trees are blossoming and the mountains are full of the snow and all this the rivers are flowing. But there's a groaning within it.

If you know the spirit. If you're in tune with the spirit. You'll hear the groaning of creation.

Where? Not in the wind whistling in the trees. But within you. That creation that's there.

Even when you see death in creation. You'll say that sounds familiar. There's a groaning within me.

Verse 23. And not only this but also we ourselves have the first fruits of the spirit. Even we ourselves groan within ourselves waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons.

The redemption of our body. For in hope we have been saved. But hope that is seen is not hope.

For who hopes for what he already sees. But if we hope for what we do not see with perseverance. We wait eagerly for it.

In the same way the spirit also helps our weaknesses. For we do not know how to pray as we should. But the spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings to be for words.

So what the Holy Spirit is teaching us here is that in order for us to pray as we should. That must begin with a groaning within us. And I'll tell you this is my honest testimony.

Over the last number of years. Three or four years especially I would say. There's been a groaning within me.

And that groaning within me has transformed my prayers. I'll tell you that groaning has come from seeing my own unchristlikeness. From having an honest agreement with what God has shown me about my unchristlikeness.

When I speak to my wife or my children in a harsh tone. I don't just sort of shrug it away. It results in a groaning within me.

When I have a negative reaction to the driver who cuts me off. Because he's driving in the slow lane at 40 miles an hour. That results a groaning within me.

It says Lord I don't want to be that old person that I used to be. I want to be like you. There's a groaning within me.

There's a groaning within me. And that groaning transforms our prayers. The only way we can know how to pray as we should.

Is if there's a groaning within us. It's born. Born that means carried or born also you can say from a groaning.

For a redemption of this body. I see this wretched flesh that I still have. I see unchristlike still coming out within me.

And in moments where I blurred out something. Or I react in an irritable way. I say there's a groaning within me.

I don't want to be that person anymore Lord help me. And God hears the cries of such people. And he sends the Holy Spirit within us to help our weaknesses.

He pours out the Holy Spirit within us. You know we cry often for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. There's many reasons why I believe the Lord does not answer.

One is lack of faith. The other is perhaps a lack of thirst. The other is the lack of groaning.

God sees that you say you want to be like him. And you see a little bit of unchristlikeness. But after a little while you're just like okay I'll get over it eventually.

And such a person can never be filled with the Holy Spirit. But the one who says Lord I'm not going to let you go. I don't care about speaking in tongues or gifts of prophecy anything.

More importantly than that Lord I want to be like you. So pour out your Holy Spirit within me and give me control of this tongue with my wife and with my children and with my co-workers and on the road when I'm driving. And he sees that groaning with perseverance we read in verse 25.

Such a person receives the power of the Holy Spirit. And then we go on reading the Spirit middle of verse 26. The Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

That means it's beyond even words. Have you ever groaned in such a way that you run out of words for that groaning? Let me ask you an honest question. Have you ever groaned for the life of Christ within you with such deep wailing and groaning? And maybe your wife sleeping in the bed next to you doesn't even know that you're wailing.

But within you is a groaning. It's like your whole insides are being eaten up. And then you don't even have words.

You run out of words to say. And then you know what happens after that? The Holy Spirit says I'll take over the prayer from here. I'll pray on your behalf.

I see that your intensity of your need is so great that you don't even have words anymore. You've asked and you've run out of words to ask. And you've fallen asleep asking.

And then the Holy Spirit takes over that prayer. Do you believe that? Oh I believe it. I've seen the fruit of it in my life.

Where I'm crying. I wake up in the middle of the night at two o'clock. And I'm mourning in my heart.

It was something the Lord's convicted me about. And then I fall asleep. I wake up in the next morning and the Lord reminds me.

You know what who kept praying after you fell asleep? I did. The Holy Spirit carried on that prayer because He saw the groaning within your heart. Oh what comfort it brings my heart.

When God Himself is praying for my need. Do you think there's any doubt that that need won't get answered? Oh I'm sure of it. The Spirit Himself intercedes on our behalf for us with groanings to thee for words.

And He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. And true prayer will always be according to the will of God. So some meditate on these verses.

I don't even think I scratched the surface of the depth of life that's here in them. I want to tell you three stories of Jesus in Jesus life from the Gospels that are a tremendous blessing for me in prayer. The first is in Luke chapter 19.

How we should pray. Luke 19. And it's a story that you might not associate with prayer.

But I hope it will from now on. Luke chapter 19. I would say it this way.

Pray to receive Christ's burden. Pray so that you can receive Christ's burden. See I know what it's we know what it's like to pray for our burden.

I have a burden Lord. My child is sick or I have this other problem. I need a job or I don't have enough money for this or even even spiritual victory.

I'm lacking victory in this area. Those are your burdens. But I believe true prayers when we pray to receive Christ's burden starts there.

Lord what is your burden? And even if your burden is a spiritual burden where you're defeated in sin. If you can start your prayer and says Lord give me your burden and you see that Christ's burden is for your victory as well. For the power of his resurrection power to be manifest in your body.

Then it answers the problem of victory over sin immediately. Lord give me your burden. And this has come alive for me in the story of this colt of a donkey that Jesus used to sit on when he came into Jerusalem.

Luke 19 we read in verse 29 onwards. And now the way we understand it if you read Matthew 21 the colt's mother was with her. There was two donkeys when Jesus was coming in.

There was the donkey and its colt. Now a donkey is a despised animal. I already talked about that last week.

In fact I think it's in Matthew it's called the beast of burden. Matthew 21 when he quotes from Zachariah he says he's riding on a beast of burden. Let's look at that very quickly if I remember correctly.

Matthew 21 yeah verse 5 say to the daughter of Zion say to you who are crying out in need say to her say to him behold your king is coming to you gentle and mounted on a donkey even on a colt the foal of a beast of burden the child of a beast of burden. This is the phrase the Lord gave me some time ago. Santosh do you want to pray for you want to pray meaningful prayers.

He says learn to become a beast of burden. What does a beast mean? Beast is one that's taken advantage of. You just put a load on it says here yeah you take care of the beast of course but it's a beast of burden.

It's goal in life. It's purpose in life. That's what I was looking for is to just carry burdens.

I have a challenge for us dear brothers and sisters. There are many people in Christendom that are aspiring to be preachers, song leaders, prophets and do miracles all that. God is looking for beasts of burden.

I believe that in all my heart. God is looking in RLCF for beasts of burden. People on whom God can lay his burden.

His burden for the church. His burden for the community around us and it becomes a heavy burden. How heavy do you think Jesus was? I don't know.

I would assume he's about as heavy as some of us and imagine that baby donkey carrying the weight of Jesus physical body on it. Jesus was giving us a picture I believe of prayer and when that burden becomes so heavy for you says Lord I want to carry your burden. I tell you when you read the prayers of godly men and women.

It caused them some pain when Jesus himself took on the burden that the father was laying on him. You know what it was like? Blood started pouring out of his skin. If you went to the place where Jesus prayed in Gethsemane, you would see a pool of blood down there.

That's a picture for me. It says Lord I haven't even come close. I haven't resisted to the point of shedding blood like you did.

I may never have to but I want to have your burden Lord. Whether it's sweat or blood or late hours in the night where I'm interceding on the behalf of somebody else that's beyond even my family or my circle because somebody's praying and I'm willing to stay up and pray. Oh what God can do.

Now I'm not trying to give you a formula therefore you must pray for a certain amount of time or anything like that. It could be a two-minute prayer but it's a prayer of burden. It's a prayer of burden where God has planted a burden in your heart.

You're praying with that. Oh God moves through such prayers. A beast of burden.

So it says when he approached Bethphage back in Luke 19 verse 29 Bethany near the mount that is called Olivet. He sent two of the disciples saying go into the village ahead of you. There as you enter you will find a cold tide on which no one yet has ever sat.

Untie it and bring it here and if anyone asks you why are you untying it you shall say the Lord has need of it. It's another phrase the Lord has brought to my mind in the context of prayer. The Lord needs you.

The Lord needs you not to do a great work, not to preach sermons, not to do anything that's fancy in the eyes of the world but to be his beast of burden. The Lord needs you children. I want to speak to you plainly.

The Lord needs you to pray. This church RLCF needs you to pray. Pray knowing that God hears your prayer.

Oh what a difference this church will be if all of us can take and say Lord lay a burden on me today onwards. I prayed sort of callously. Yeah I joined the prayer meetings and I pray but it's my turn.

I pray and I take my turn but it's quite a different thing. Being a beast of burden means you're praying out of turn in season and out of season. The Lord is laying his burden on you and you're praying.

Nobody knows you're praying. It's not prayer meeting time but you're praying. See this cult wasn't given an appointment.

At such and such a time Jesus wants to sit on you. No. Two disciples came saying here take him away and Jesus is going to sit on you.

This is a beast of burden. The Lord has need of it and so these who were sent away went away and found it just as he has told them and as verse 33 as they were untying the coat its owner said to them and that's the thing you see the untying. Prayer is an untying.

Praise is an untying. Oh my my prayers my prayers of praise have become more untied lately and I hope they will be for you as well. I sat for years in churches where I just watched the praise team sing.

I just sat there silently and I hummed along and sang quietly and then I was untied like this coat and the Holy Spirit came upon me and started to fill me with the spirit of praise and I wanted to sing. It didn't matter if I was up here or down there. I wanted to sing.

So a lot of people want to be up here here or in other churches but when we can learn to for the Holy Spirit to untie our tongue where we praise him we sing him we sing to him. This coat was untied and then of course as they were untying it the owners the people who used to keep this coat tied up your flesh your introverted temperament your the person you've always been that says well no I've never sung in church what will people think if all of a sudden I start singing I've always been the quiet one nobody could ever hear me now now if I start singing loudly I'll be an embarrassment that's the devil that's your flesh trying to tie you up and says no don't sing loud no remain tied up the owners who are the owners of your praise of your tongue let me ask you that who are the owners of your tongue has nothing to do with your temperament has nothing to do with how you've always been I say I invite you dear brother dear sister child let the Lord untie your temperament let the Lord untie your tongue and sing and praise him like you've never praised him before oh it will open the floodgates over your life the power of the Holy Spirit will come upon the windows of heaven will open upon I've experienced it I tell you I have you might think when you see me sing or you hear me preach that I'm I have a temperament that's like that when I when I was 18 or 19 years old actually beginning from about 13 or so I think I was a little bit of an expert when I was younger and then I went into a shell in my teenage years if I recall correctly and I became very introverted and just insecure and I was like that for many years and the Lord changed me he untied me and I pray oh dear family I pray that he will untie you I think some of you may be in that place I'm not here to judge you not here to judge you at all please know that I think some of you may be tied up I think some of you may be tied up and the will so these owners this picture of Satan and our lusts ruled their minds and ruled their tongues ruled our tongues for so many years and you let's talk about this gift of tongues first of all just briefly in passing you know I believe in the gift of tongues and the Lord has given me that gift years ago but you probably never heard me speak in tongues that's okay because if you read first Corinthians 14 carefully whenever there's a gift of tongues there must be an interpretation and that gift must have a purpose in most churches that believe in the gift of tongues please say they believe in it it's misused it's used not according to the way scripture says it should be used that would be like me blabbering a bunch of stuff like I used to when I was about six months old and convincing you that I'm speaking English and you'd say no I know English that's not and somebody who truly knows is in touch with the Holy Spirit will be able to discern fairly quickly whether somebody's just moving their tongue and muttering a bunch of syllables or they're actually speaking a prophetic word in the gift of tongues and Paul says that he uses the gift for example he uses the gift privately as a praise to him but let's talk about the gift of tongues if you Paul says I hope that I wish that all of you did speak in tongues he does say that we're told more earnestly desire especially prophecy it's okay to seek for the gift of tongues but I say it like this I found that the gift of tongues is the overflow of praise in my English tongue when you find that praise is building up and building up and building up and building up in English and then you run out of words it's like Lord I'm really taken up with who you are what you've done for me I praise you exalt you and and I don't know anything else to say in English he'll give you the gift of tongues but if you find that you okay I thank you Lord and I sing for him now and then I sing for him on Sunday morning for about 20 minutes but during the week I'm not really taken up with the spirit of praise that's a cup that's a quarter full or a tenth full that says why isn't it overflowing because it's only a tenth full and I tell you brothers and sisters if you want God to transform your tongue whether he gives you the gift of tongues or not that's really not as important let him fill you with the spirit of praise in English sing I'll tell you something I used to do when and I used to be embarrassed about it then now I'm not so much anymore because I see God loosened my tongue through it when I was younger and when I was in my late 20s I think I would if I'd be discouraged maybe I'd fall into some area perhaps and I'd be discouraged or I'd see that I see the potential of what God could do in my life and how far I was from it I'd be discouraged and then I did something that really helped me I want to

say that as an example to you you can try it if you want I was single at the time and I would drive my car and I found CDs of hymns of praise and I would crank up the volume and I would sing louder than the CD and if you were driving by me at the time you think this is a crazy guy like the windows are rolled up and he's you know he's shaking his hands and his mouth is moving really loud and the music's really loud and he's singing even louder than the music but I tell you that the Lord loosened my tongue through it find some good not don't find this fluffy stuff that's on the radio these days buy a CD of some good old hymns that are sung with a spirit of praise and back then I used to listen to Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir there's some wonderful gospel hymns they sing or Times Square Church Praise Choir is to listen to gospel hymns like that and I sing loud because I didn't know how to sing loud in public and the more I sang loud all alone in my car I still learned how to sing loud okay now I'm not in my car anymore but Jesus is the same yesterday today and forever and he has filled up my cup to overflowing and I can't hide this anymore I've hit it for years and now it overflowed so that's that's praise and if and tongues I believe is primarily intended to do that to set people free from a spirit of discouragement and heaviness and so that that spirit of heaviness can be released and untied that colt that sat there for so many years God wants to untie it and set it free but if he sees that you just want the gift of tongues to impress people in the meeting impress people in the church that you have a gift what they think is tongues and or even to satisfy your own conscience that you're filled with the Holy Spirit because you have tongues oh the devil will lead you astray so don't be fooled by that but if the the essence of this is learn to praise and let that praise build up to overflowing and let God decide if he gives you enough English words that's enough what does it matter if you speak in a heavenly tongue if you have the words in English that's great but if you don't and the praise is still growing perhaps he'll give you the gift of tongues it's I think of it like bursting a dam you know you've got this dam that's held up and the praise is building up building up the pressure is building up building up building up the water is pressing against this wall has been it's been dammed up for so long this mouth has been closed up for so long and it's but the praise is building up the Holy Spirit is groaning within me it's building up building up and one day it just bursts forth in any language doesn't matter let the Lord be the judge the decider of what language it should be in yeah so um and then we read in verse 35 they brought it to Jesus and they threw their coats on their coats on the coat and put Jesus on it it's another phrase that's really blessed me what it means to pray Lord put yourself on me you you had a body here on this earth there was a coat of a donkey that you found and you put yourself on it Lord put yourself on me as I pray pray this way the next time you pray even if it's for a meal there you are sitting with your wife and your children or your family around a meal and you're saying gonna pray Lord we're blessed this meal pray this way I remember hearing the testimony of David Wilkerson from his son Gary at at at David Wilkerson's memorial service after he passed away and his son said one thing I remember about my child my father from a young age when he would pray it's like Jesus would actually come and sit there at the table even for a meal I've never forgotten that that's why I believe that man was used so tremendously of God and I've thought about that often now when I pray I don't yeah I'm reminded of what David Wilkerson's testimony was I can say Lord but this is how I want to pray you come and sit you put your burden on me even for this food that we're about to eat see then it's no longer about whether you'll get a bellyache from the food it's not about that is that why we pray I really don't care about the bellyache I say Lord I want you to be on me as I pray for this meal I want you to be on me as I'm going to work I want you to be on me as my lay my hands on my children lay yourself on me Lord I want to become I want you to become my burden like it was for this cult let's turn over to Matthew 26 what it means to carry Christ's burden we read the sad story of Peter James and John when they were in the garden of Gethsemane with Jesus Matthew 26 verse 36 begin reading in Matthew 26 verse 36 when Jesus came with them this is Peter James and John oh sorry this was actually all 12 or 11 of them Judas had already left and he said to

his disciples sit here while I go over there and pray now if Jesus was to tell you come here and say hey would you mind sitting here in this chair and I'm going to go in the back room and pray what will you do what the disciples was did was they sat in the chair says okay we'll wait for Jesus to be done praying then he'll come back they weren't filled with the Holy Spirit yet you know what a spiritual person would say Lord Jesus are you going to pray in the back room that's where I want to be I'm going to sit here and wait for you to be done with your prayer Lord how are you praying and today Jesus is at the right hand of the Father we read interceding for us day and night Hebrews chapter 7 and now he says I'm going to go over there in the back room at the right hand of the Father and pray what do you want to do sit here no Lord I'm not going to sit here I want to be with you I want to hold hands with you oh that the disciples had said Lord why are you going over there to pray can't I come with you and pray it would have changed their lives and he took with him Peter and two sons of Zebedee James and John says okay he began to be grieved and distressed look at the burden that was on Jesus heart and these disciples knew nothing of it they'd walked with him for three and a half years saw all the things that he did saw how he prayed and yet they had no clue about the burdens that he was carrying have you walked with Jesus for many years and yet you'd have no idea what his burdens are oh it's convicting me even as I sit here says Lord I've been a Christian for over 40 years I think I believe and I think many of those years I spent not even knowing what your burden was I didn't care I just wanted to go to heaven I was glad that you forgave my sins but I didn't I didn't pause for a moment to say Lord what's your burden in the midst of this maybe Jesus look at Jesus he says he began to be grieved and distressed the son of God here on this earth grieved and distressed I believe it's true today grieved and distressed over what he sees in Christendom have you prayed and says Lord your name is dishonored by false prophets and false preachers by people who love money people who love the attention of people making a name for themselves you're grieved and distressed there Lord I want to partner and pray for that that your name is dishonored and then he said to them my soul then he even said it to them my soul is deeply grieved to the point of death remain here and keep watch with me and then he went a little beyond them and they knowing that Jesus was distressed and grieved says oh I guess he needs some quiet time by himself and he fell on his face and prayed saying my father if it is possible let this cup pass for me yet not as I will as you will and then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping here's Jesus blood pouring out of his skin and the disciples are sleeping oh you can't stay up it's good that we have early morning prayer meetings sometimes not all the time we don't expect you come here every morning but sometimes it's good why because I believe if you're not willing to give up sleep you probably have no idea about what Christ's burden is if sleep is more precious to you you're not really willing to let Christ lay his burden on you I find that some of my sweetest times of intimacy are around two or three in the morning where I can't sleep I say Lord I don't really care to go back to sleep as much as long as you meet with me and lay your burden on me there's a reason you woke me up at this unearthly hour and uh and it's not because I stayed up till then just so you know I used to do that I fall asleep but all of a sudden I wake up and I can't fall back to sleep I know I've got a day of work waiting for me I've got meetings coming up at nine in the morning but Lord there's something far greater than whether I make that meeting or not or how tired I am during the day that you will lay your burden on me brothers when we come to the prayer meeting on Saturday can we come with that that sense of burden and need even if I'm the only one here what if you show up on Saturday morning and everybody else forgot we've got to send a reminder we forgot that we plan to pray but you're here because Jesus is grieved over something and he wants to lay his burden on you it has nothing to do with the rest of the church it's you that's why I say if you don't come on Saturday morning to the prayer meeting but you're at home praying by yourself then that's great because the Lord has laid a burden on your heart I believe it's even better to do it together when the Lord can lay his burden collectively on our hearts and then he says he came to the

disciples and found them sleeping 40 verse 40 he said to Peter so you men could not even keep watch with me for one hour keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation read it carefully I missed it for years I thought he was saying keep watching and praying that you will overcome in temptation he was saying keep watching and praying that you don't even enter into temptation that means there are some temptations that God doesn't even want me to enter into I believe that every temptation that he allows me to go through he will give me victory over I trust him for that but you know there's some temptation says I didn't even want you to be tempted in that area but the reason you were is because you couldn't watch and pray there's no wonder you all of a sudden faced that temptation that was beyond your ability keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation he said that in Matthew 6 lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil are you praying Lord there are temptations coming up this day that I don't even want to face that you don't want me to face watch and pray keep your eyes open for that temptation that's ahead so that you take another path and avoid it if you know that that's there's a temptation there that's going there if you know that going to that work party will result in a temptation don't go doesn't matter what connections you lose what networking you miss out on but there's a temptation there whether it's alcohol or a flirtatious woman or some other conversation in the workplace skip that meeting lead us not into temptation watch and pray so that you may not enter temptation and the Lord will if you really let him lay his burden on your heart say don't even go there now yeah skip it if you're addicted to something on your phone or the computer he'll say turn it off don't even turn it on today because there's a temptation there that you're not able to handle right now don't even don't even enter into it watching and praying so there's some temptations that we shouldn't even have entered into um so that's the first praying to receive Christ's burden mark chapter 10 let's look at this mark chapter 10 you know I think I'll end there I probably have much more to say on prayer so uh let's pray Lord I pray that I will pray more like you did I see how you prayed Lord I know a little bit and I want to pray as you prayed and I want the Holy Spirit to come and fill me more and more with this burden for prayer that you have Lord for this burden for those around me whether it's my wife my children those in this church and others you've placed within my circle and others that you want to place in my circle that aren't there yet oh Lord pour your spirit upon us I pray that we'll be a praying church an interceding church a church that's in tune with you in in touch with you connected with you at the right hand of the Father interceding on behalf of others around us oh Lord I pray pour your spirit upon us may not just be a stirring we receive this morning Lord but a changed life that the way we pray even for something small that seems small is through burden your burden lay yourselves on us lay yourself on us Lord Jesus through your Holy Spirit it's not just fiction we've heard it's not just some ideology Lord but a life that you want us to enter into and I believe you will do it for us for any who are hungry any who are willing to let to become beasts of burden for you thank you in Jesus name amen

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