

# Dangerous Prayer

Sunday, January 27, 2019



## Scripture & Key Points

### Thanksgiving

2 Samuel 7:18-29

*"Prayers are our roots. The roots do the hard work of strengthening the tree, but this hard work is hidden work. The same can be said of prayer."*

**John Onwuchekwa**

1. **True thankfulness is rooted in the [gospel](#).**

2 Samuel 7:18-22

*"If we give priority to the outer life, our inner life will be dark and scary. We will not know what to do with solitude. We will be deeply uncomfortable with self-examination, and we will have an increasingly short attention span for any kind of reflection. Even more seriously, our lives will lack integrity. Outwardly, we will need to project confidence, spiritual and emotional health, and wholeness, while inwardly we may be filled with self-doubts."*

**Timothy Keller, Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God**

2. **True thankfulness is found by [trusting](#) in the things only God can provide.**

2 Samuel 7:23-27

*"Hear me. We won't consistently pray if we're not sure of God's ability. So much of our failure to pray come from subtly believing that within God exists the possibility of failure. Because of this, we never ask God to do the impossible. Instead, we only pursue the things we can accomplish on our own." **John Onwuchekwa***

3. **True thankfulness flows from the [promises](#) of God, not the resolve of his people.** 2 Samuel 7:28-29

- "O Lord God, you are [God](#), (v.28)
- "your words are [true](#), (v.28)
- "you have [promised](#) this good thing to your servant." (v.28)

## Ice Breaker

- Can you remember what your kitchen/dining room table looked like growing up? Describe for the group.
- What happened around your table, who gathered there? As you gathered there, what can you remember being thankful for?

## Discussion Questions

1. Consider the quote by John Onwuchekwa on prayer being the root of integrity and confidence. How is prayer hard work? How does it strengthen our resolve and spiritual stamina as a believer?
2. In 2 Samuel 7:18, the scriptures tells us David, "sits before the Lord". What does this look like for us?
3. In 2 Samuel 7:18-22 we see David thanking God for choosing to use his family in the grand scheme of God's redemptive plan. Read and consider Isaiah 11:1. Even though David's family is compared to a barren stump, God still used him. Share points where you are thankful God is still using you despite your flaws.
4. Consider the second quote by John Onwuchekwa. He states that often we never ask God for the impossible. Why do we stop short in our prayers and hesitate to ask God for the impossible? What impossible endeavor do you need to ask God for today?
5. David considers the history of Israel in 2 Samuel 7:23-27 and recalls God's faithfulness in times past. An important part of spiritual growth is having the ability to look back at your history with thankfulness instead of regret. Share with your group times where God intervened and directed and why this produces thankfulness.
6. In 2 Samuel 7:28-29 we see that David's thankfulness is rooted in three attributes of God's character. David recalls that God is the only God, his words are true, and he keeps his promises. Why are these three things about God important to keep in mind?

## Application

- How do your prayers need to change because of the truth you heard from 2 Samuel 7:18-29?

## Prayer

As a church, we prayed these three prayers. Take time now to pray the following with your group.

- Thank God for something He is going to do in your future.
- Thank God for something only He can do.
- Thank God for the promises He has kept and will keep.

