BEYOND

BUILDINGS
THIS GENERATION
TODAY

Discussion Guide

Session 4: Beyond Words: Expectant Prayer Leads To Faith in Action

A note to discussion leaders: you probably won't get to every question, but try to answer at least 1 question from each group (1-3, 4-6, 7-9)

1. Donald Whitney notes: *"The problem is not that we pray about the same old things; rather, it's that we say the same old things about the same old things."* When prayer becomes a predictable script, how does that drain our sense of spiritual expectancy?

2. What internal fears or doubts keep us from praying bold, impossible prayers that require supernatural intervention? Do we pray "safe" prayers primarily to protect ourselves from disappointment if God says no?

3. Spurgeon proclaimed that *"asking is the rule of the Kingdom... you may have everything by asking in His Name, and nothing without asking."* If God withholds certain blessings until His people pray, what might our church or families be missing right now because of prayerlessness?

4. Read James 5:16–18. Why is it crucial for James to emphasize that Elijah was "a man with a nature like ours"? How does this truth correct the misconception that powerful, answered prayer is reserved only for spiritual elites?

5. Read Acts 4:23–31. Notice how the apostles ground their plea in Psalm 2. How does rooting our requests in Scripture's promises and character change the boldness of our prayers?

6. In the face of intense governmental persecution, what did the early church explicitly ask for, and what did they choose *not* to ask for? How does their focus on "boldness to speak the word" convict our typical petitions for comfort, relief, and peace?

7. How did God respond to the church's plea in Acts 4:31? When the Holy Spirit filled them, what was the immediate result in their actions?

8. Sproul wrote that *"the most important thing prayer changes is us."* When you pray earnestly for God to bring revival, heal a broken relationship, or reach a lost family member, how should that prayer transform your personal attitude, speech, and schedule?

9. Spurgeon insisted that a man cannot honestly pray for bread while refusing to plow the field. Are there areas of your life where you have been using "I'm praying about it" as an excuse to avoid taking a difficult, obedient step of faith?