

RUN THE RACE | HOPE CHAPEL

FAITH FILLED

Three Points on Faith-Filled Prayer

Pastor Andrew Cole | Sunday 3 May 2026 | 9AM Gawler

Big Idea: *Prayer without faith is just words. Prayer with faith is a force that shakes heaven and changes earth. And all of it - faith, boldness, persistence, surrender - flows from one source: relationship with God.*

Hebrews 11:1 *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

Mark 11:24 *Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.*

Jesus said believe that you've already received it. That is the posture of faith - past tense confidence about a future promise. Before we even open our mouths to pray, faith must already be alive in our hearts.

POINT 1

RELATIONSHIP

Not ritual. Pray from intimacy with your Father.

POINT 2

BOLDNESS

Bold, persistent, specific. Keep asking, keep knocking.

POINT 3

SURRENDER

Align with God's will. Trust his answer more than your request.

POINT 1 | Faith-Filled Prayer Requires Relationship, Not Ritual

Matthew 6:6 *But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.*

Many people treat prayer like a vending machine - insert a request, receive a blessing. But God is not a vending machine. He is a Father. And faith cannot flourish in a transactional relationship.

Think of a child who wakes in the night and runs to their parents. They don't rehearse a speech on the way down the hallway. They don't wonder whether their parents will answer. They run because they know who their parent is. That is faith-filled prayer. It flows from intimacy, not performance.

Daniel - Prayer as Daily Relationship

When a law was passed making prayer illegal, Daniel didn't panic and he didn't stop. He went to his room, opened his windows toward Jerusalem, and prayed three times a day as he always had. Prayer wasn't a crisis habit - it was a daily relationship. Because of that, when the lions came, his faith didn't waver.

Crisis prayer - where our prayer life jumps from a three to an eight when things fall apart — is understandable. But Daniel shows us something better: a steady, daily relationship with God that means when the hard things come, we already know who our Father is.

Everything Andrew treasures most from his prayer life - repentance, transformation, compassion, wisdom, faith - came not from need or crisis, but from relationship. The wells dug in relationship are the ones that keep flowing.

Reflect: *Before you bring your big requests to God this week, spend five minutes simply being with him. No agenda, no list, no stopwatch. Tell him what you're grateful for. Tell him how you feel. Maybe read a psalm out loud. Build the relationship first and watch your faith level rise naturally.*

POINT 2 | Faith-Filled Prayer Is Bold, Persistent, and Specific

Matthew 7:7–8 *Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.*

In the original Greek, ask, seek, and knock are present continuous - keep asking, keep seeking, keep knocking. God is not annoyed at your persistence. He is moved by it.

The Persistent Widow - Luke 18:1–8

Jesus told this parable specifically to show that we should always pray and not give up. The widow had no power or status, but she had persistence grounded in the belief that justice was coming. That is faith in action.

Blind Bartimaeus - Mark 10

When the crowd told Bartimaeus to be quiet, he cried out louder. And he was specific - he didn't just cry out the name Jesus, he called him the Son of David, showing an inner revelation of who Jesus was. His request was clear: I want to see. Jesus stopped, and said: your faith has healed you. He credited the faith for the miracle.

Persistence is not a lack of trust. It is an expression of it.

Bold, specific, persistent prayer says: I believe God is good, I believe he hears me, and I am not moving until something changes.

Reflect: Write down one specific prayer request this week. Not vague - be specific. Not 'pray for my family' but 'Lord, restore this relationship.' Not 'pray for world peace' but 'Lord, help me in this particular area.' Pray it every single day this week. Specificity honours God and sharpens our faith.

POINT 3 | Faith-Filled Prayer Aligns Our Will with God's

1 John 5:14 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of him.

The most faith-filled prayer ever prayed included these words: 'Not my will, but yours be done' - spoken by Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane. True faith doesn't demand that God perform on our schedule. It trusts that his answer - yes, no, or not yet - is rooted in a love and wisdom that surpasses ours.

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Paul's Thorn - 2 Corinthians 12

Paul begged God three times to remove his thorn in the flesh. God's answer wasn't the miracle Paul expected. Instead: 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.'

Paul's faith was not in the removal of the problem. His faith was in the God who was with him in the problem. That is mature, mountain-moving faith.

Thank God he doesn't answer every prayer the way we've prayed it. We pray sometimes from incomplete understanding, from immaturity, from not having the full picture. Surrendering our request to his will is not weakness - it is the highest act of faith.

Lord, I trust your answer more than I trust my request.

Reflect: Think of a prayer you've been carrying that hasn't been answered the way you hoped. Have you given God permission to answer it his way? Surrender is not defeat - it is trust. If it's God, it's good. Whatever God does is good.

Mark 11:23 *If anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them.*

The mountain is not the problem. Doubt is. Whether you're standing at the edge of a difficult health diagnosis, broken relationships, a child far from God, or a financial cliff - hear the word of the Lord: have faith in God.

Conclusion - Everything Comes from Relationship

PRAY FROM RELATIONSHIP

Know your Father before you bring your requests

PRAY WITH BOLDNESS

Be persistent and specific. Heaven responds to faith-filled tenacity.

PRAY IN SURRENDER

Align with God's will. Trust his perfect love and timing.

Boldness comes out of relationship. Surrender comes out of relationship. No matter where Andrew looks in this message, he keeps arriving at the same place: relationship. Everything - repentance, acceptance, transformation, compassion, understanding, wisdom, faith - comes from relationship with God.

The wells dug in relationship are the ones that keep flowing. Not wells dug in crisis. Not wells dug from need. Wells dug simply because of love for God and the desire to know him.

If you want faith that moves - get in relationship with him. Stay in relationship with him. Abide in him, and he will abide in you. Everything comes out of the relationship.

Reflection & Discussion Questions

Use these on your own during the week, or with your LifeGroup.

1. Honestly, how would you rate your prayer life right now - not the quality of your words, but the quality of your relationship with God through prayer? What would it look like to shift it from transactional to relational?

2. Andrew described 'crisis prayer' - when our prayer life spikes from a 3 to an 8 in difficult times. Do you recognise that pattern in yourself? What would daily, steady relationship with God look like instead?

3. The Greek for 'ask, seek, knock' in Matthew 7 is present continuous - keep asking, keep seeking, keep knocking. Is there a prayer you've given up on? What would it look like to pick it back up with fresh persistence this week?

4. What is one specific prayer you could commit to praying every day this week? (Not vague — something concrete and particular.) Write it down.

5. Paul's faith was not in the removal of his problem, but in the God who was with him in it. Is there a situation in your life right now where you need to shift your faith from 'remove this' to 'be with me in this'?

6. Have you given God permission to answer your most pressing prayer request his way? What would it mean to genuinely pray: 'Lord, I trust your answer more than I trust my request'?

Key Scriptures This Week

- Hebrews 11:1 — Faith is the substance of things hoped for
- Mark 11:24 — Believe you have received it, and it will be yours
- Matthew 6:6 — Pray to your Father in secret; he rewards openly
- Daniel 6:10 — Daniel prayed three times a day as he always had
- Matthew 7:7–8 — Ask, seek, knock — keep asking, keep seeking
- Luke 18:1–8 — The persistent widow; always pray and not give up
- 1 John 5:14 — If we ask according to his will, he hears us
- Proverbs 3:5–6 — Trust in the Lord with all your heart
- 2 Corinthians 12:9 — My grace is sufficient; power made perfect in weakness
- Mark 11:23 — Say to the mountain; believe and do not doubt