

# Dangerous Prayers

## Introduction

### Why Our Prayers Need to Be Dangerous.

The author of the book that we will be using in this four to six-week study, Craig Groeschel, was asked by a friend, “Hey, Craig, do you believe God still does miracles?” Craig replied, “Of course.” His friend’s next comment was, “Good—because your prayers are so lame.”

Craig writes that he tried to laugh with his friend, but the joke stung—mostly because he was right. They had just left a prayer service together, back when the author had just started working in the ministry. The author said he couldn’t deny it, because secretly he knew it was true.

How would you have felt if somebody had told you that?

He said that he had fallen into a “prayer rut.” Praying about the same things, in the same way, at the same time.

As we study the Bible more, we see a variety of prayers spoken by God’s people. Not only did they pray about things that were incredibly personal—to conceive a child, for instance (**1 Sam. 1:27**)—but also their prayers were often so practical, for food and provision (**Matt. 6:11**) and escape from their enemies (**Ps. 59:1-2**). Sometimes they seemed to gently whisper to a loving God. Other times they yelled at him in agony and frustration.

They often pleaded with God sincerely. Then later they’d cry out from the depths of their anguish and rail at God like a tired toddler thrashing in the arms of a parent. They prayed for boldness to share their faith. They prayed for walls, both internally and externally, to fall. Daniel prayed, Jonah prayed, and Gideon prayed just to name a few.

Their prayers were honest. Desperate. Fiery. Gutsy. Real.

### Insight

*God hates showy prayers, so there’s no pressure, no right way than being open and honest with Him.*

Instead of long, loud, and fancy, the prayers that move God are simple, authentic, and heartfelt. But simple is not the same as safe. And, that is the reason the author wrote this book. He said the biggest mistake he made in his prayer life, the reason his prayers were so “lame,” was because he prayed to safely. He was in a comfort zone with God, built on lame, half-hearted communication. He wasn’t on fire and he wasn’t cold. His prayers were tepid (lukewarm). But safe, lukewarm prayers don’t draw us closer to God or help us reveal his love to this world.

Prayers are inherently dangerous.

## Let's Look at Jesus

Jesus was talking to his Father in the garden of Gethsemane, just a short time before he gave his life on the cross. Knowing what was ahead, Jesus asked God if there was any other way. Then Jesus, not just a regular disciple or a person in the Bible, but Jesus, the Son of God, prayed a vulnerable and dangerous prayer of submission: "Yet I want your will to be done, not mine" (**Luke 22:42** NLT).

## Insight

*Jesus never asks us to do something he wouldn't do himself. He calls us to a life of faith, not a life of comfort.*

Instead of coming to God for a safer, easier, stress-free lifestyle, the Son of God challenges us to risk loving others more than ourselves. Instead of indulging our daily desires, he calls us to deny them for something eternal. Instead of living by what we want, he tells us to pick up our crosses daily and follow his example. In this book, we'll dig more deeply into these ideas through three powerful prayers drawn from Scripture. These three prayers may be short. They may be simple. They may be straightforward. But they are not safe.

## Goal of The Study.

In the next three sections of this book, we'll attempt to stretch our faith, expand our hearts, and open our lives to God praying these three dangerous prayers:

# SEARCH ME BREAK ME SEND ME

## CAUTION!

When we're seeking to communicate with God in real, vulnerable, and intimate prayer, He's not wrapping us in a bubble of spiritual safety. Instead, he bursts our what's-in-it-for-me bubble and invites us to trust him when we don't know what he will do next. Some days we feel blessed. Other days we face challenges, opposition, and persecution. But, every moment of dangerous prayer will be filled with his presence.

But be warned. There will be bumps. When you start to pray things like "search me, break me, send me," you may experience valleys. Attacks. Trials. Pain. Hardship. Discouragement. Even heartbreak. But there will also be joy of faith, the marvel of miracles, the relief of surrender, and the pleasure of pleasing God.

Note: This book has three parts which are the three dangerous prayers that were previously mentioned. Each part has six to nine short easy to read chapters. I will attempt to bring out the highlights of three to four chapters a week. Prayerfully, we can complete this study in six weeks.

Let's get started.

## SEARCH ME

*Search me, God, and know my heart, test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting (Psalm 139:23-24 NLT).*

David is praying a dangerous prayer with these two verses. He is asking God to do several things.

- He is asking God to Search me, and know my heart.
  - God already knows the heart of David; the question is does David's search match God's search? The old song said, ***If*** you find anything that should not be, take it out and strengthen me.
  - God will reveal the real heart, not to destroy us but to help us.
- He asked God to "test me and know my anxious thoughts."
  - He wants God to reveal his fears.
- "See if there is any offensive way in me," The King James Version reads, "And see if there be any wicked way in me"
  - He is asking God to uncover my sins.
  - Dangerous?
- Finally, David asks God to lead him in the way everlasting.

The challenge is making this our prayer instead of David's prayer and deal with the results that God reveals and uncovers.

Homework: **Read Psalm 13:1-2; Hebrews 4:16; Jeremiah 17:9; 1 Samuel 13:14.**