A paved path lined with trees and a hedge in autumn. The path is covered with fallen yellow and orange leaves. The trees have vibrant autumn foliage, and a dense green hedge runs along the right side of the path. The scene is peaceful and scenic.

Seven Prayers  
that Changed the  
World and Can  
Change Your  
Life

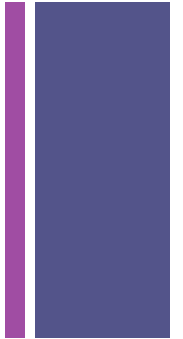




**Our Commitment to  
the Will of God**  
1 Kings 8:22-30



# 1 Kings 8:22-30

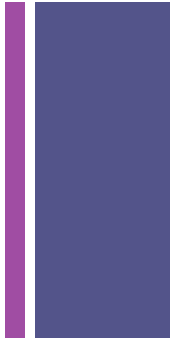


Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in front of the whole assembly of Israel, spread out his hands toward heaven and said:

“O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below – you who keeps your covenant of love with your servants who continue whole-heartedly in your way. You have kept your promise to your servant David my father; with your mouth you have promised and with your hand you have fulfilled it – as it is today.



# 1 Kings 8:22-30, continued

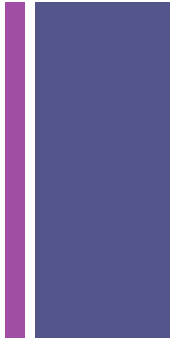


“Now LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant David my father the promises you made to him when you said, ‘You shall never fail to have a man to sit before me on the throne of Israel, if only your sons are careful in all they do to walk before me as you have done.’ And now, O God of Israel, let your word that you promised your servant David my father come true.

“But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!

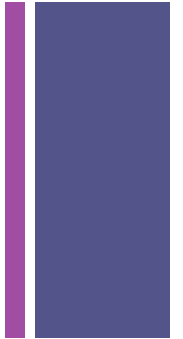


# 1 Kings 8:22-30, continued



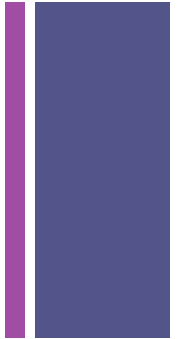
“Yet give attention to your servant’s prayer and his pleas for mercy, O LORD my God. Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence this day. May your eyes be open toward this temple night and day, this place of which you said, ‘My Name shall be there,’ so that you will hear the prayer your servant prays toward this place. Hear the supplication of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place. Hear from heaven, your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.”

# + The nature of prayer



- An inner response to the invitation of God to draw near Him.
- An expression of an intimate and close relation with God, to open up our minds to understand His word.
- An opportunity to hear from God, to gain impressions of His leadership in our lives.
- An expression of our commitment to Him, our love for Him, our gratitude to Him, our confession of sin to Him.

# + A new hymn: “I Surrender Some”



*Some to Jesus I surrender, some to Him I freely give.*

*Let me know some love and power, in some vague sense of blessing daily live.*

*I surrender some! I surrender some? Some to Thee my well-liked Savior, I surrender some.*

*Some to Jesus I surrender, make me Savior somewhat Thine.*

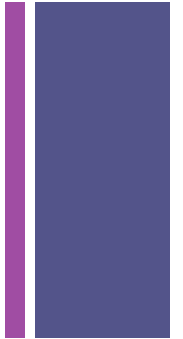
*Just a touch of love and power, so I can somewhat know that perhaps Thou art mine.*

# + A prayer that can change your life

- Solomon prayed: “Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence this day.”
- **Lord, contemporize my faith for today. I commit my life into Your hands for You to use now.**



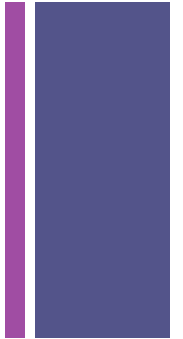
# + Prayer can change us!



- Through prayer we commit ourselves to God,
- Revealing the determination He has placed in our hearts
- Revealing His enabling power at work within us
- Revealing the purifying power of His Spirit in our lives

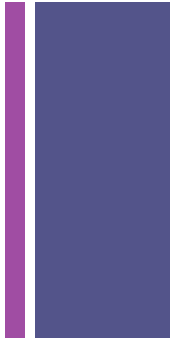


# 1. Commitment is evidence of God's determination at work in us



- The story of the Old Testament is God's story. He is the Hero, and He is the One who is the Force behind each accomplishment.
- For 500 years the tabernacle in Shiloh was center for worship. Tattered and worn out, gradually some buildings were constructed, but it was largely neglected.
- By David's time the tabernacle was a relic of Israel's past, not a statement of its present faith or of its future hopes. He determined to do something about this.

# + David and Solomon's determination



- God began to stir within the heart of David and others to build a temple, and though He did not allow David to do it.
- This moment was the contemporizing of Israel's ancient faith, clarifying that they were not merely resting in their history but also they were trusting in their God in that day.
- Don't we face similar temptations in our day? To rest in the legacy of the past and not to stand in the reality of God's life today?

+ On a church building in England is written this inscription:

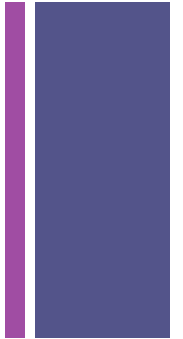
**In the year 1653, when all things sacred in the kingdom were either profaned or demolished, This church was built . . .**

**To do the best of things in the worst of times.**





# A contemporary faith believes God moves and acts in today's world

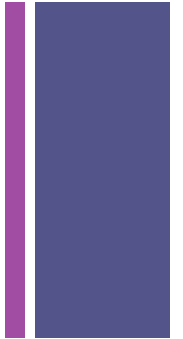


- Past tense Christianity: “I used to be...” “We used to do...” “God used to move...”
- Future tense Christianity: “Perhaps one day...” “When Christ returns...” “If I feel like it...”
- Present tense Christianity: “Today, Lord, I commit my life into Your hands for You to use.”
- The only day in which we are able to live is today – we cannot live in the past or in the future. We must live today or not at all. We must follow Christ today or not at all. We must commit ourselves today or not at all.





## 2. Commitment is evidence of God's enabling power



- What we do reveals what we think about God.
- “I can do all things through him who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13).
- Israel had a long-term problem with commitment to God and obedience to Him. Solomon refused to let the legacy of past failure to undermine God's hope for the future.
- “Those that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength” (Isaiah 40:31).

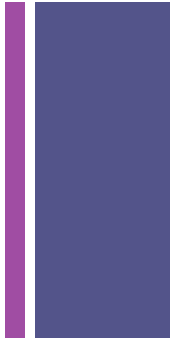
# + Daniel: a Man of Integrity and Courage

- Even though he was a slave he did not violate his conscience.
- He had to learn a new language, had to accept a new name, but he was determined not to disobey his God.
- Through faith and commitment he lived above fear.





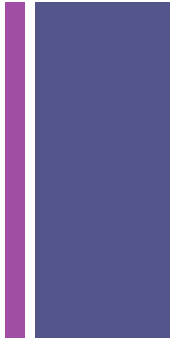
# When abuse and neglect seem normal...



- We cease to hope for improvement.
- Unhealthy seems acceptable. Second best is passed off as good enough. Failure is expected and excusable.
- Healing does not happen because people have held onto their wounds. Victimhood is valued more than victory.
- Tattered tabernacles are preferred over beautiful and new temples because we cease to believe in the power of Almighty God.



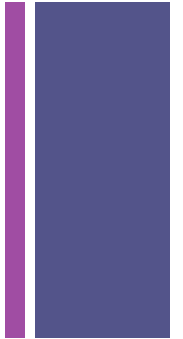
# Christ has come into your life...



- So that you can be forgiven and can overcome your failures
- So you can become the best person in the midst of discouraging circumstances
- So you can bear witness to His truth and love in the midst of deep unbelief and unkindness
- So we can cease being victims and become “more than conquerors through Him who loved us.”



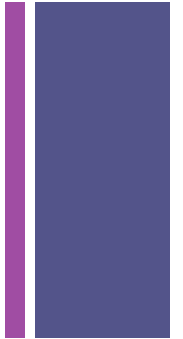
## 3. Commitment means that we expect God to keep us honest



- Solomon ended His prayer: “Hear from heaven, your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.”
- The prayer ends with a long list of possible sins the people might commit, asking for forgiveness. They would commit all of these sins and needed to know God would forgive.
- Commitment to God is an acknowledgement that we need Him daily in our lives. Christ taught us to pray, “forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors ... Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.” We need both of these prayers.



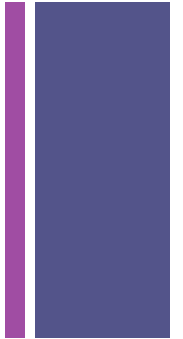
# + Tough questions to ask



- Must I be perfect before I commit my heart to Christ? *No because your commitment is faith in God's sustaining power, not in your determination alone.*
- What if I sin after I commit my life to Him? *You will sin again, but develop the habit of keeping "short accounts" with God. Confess quickly, return immediately.*
- Won't God get tired of our weaknesses? *"As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust" (Psalm 103:13-14).*



# A Tattered Tabernacle or a New Beautiful Temple? Failure or Faith?



- Our Commitment to Christ must be real and relevant for today.
- Each generation of Christ followers must make a real commitment of their hearts and lives in their day and age.
- God is always active in the present tense.
- **Lord, contemporize my faith for today. I commit my life into Your hands for You to use now.**