

Fire In The Pulpit

Depending On The Word And The Spirit



Praying Through Your Sermon

Every pastor longs for his sermons to have deep and lasting impact in the lives of his congregation. When you work diligently on a message, you want that message to make a difference in lives. You don't preach just to preach; you preach for transformation in the church and in individual lives.

How can you have sermons that have impact and unleash change? I want to suggest praying through your sermons. When I say, pray through your sermons, I mean praying the points of your sermons for your congregation.

You pray **over** the sermon, asking the Spirit to show you what to preach. I am suggesting that you pray **through** the sermon, asking the Spirit to enable the congregation to hear and obey the truth of the message. What points do you want your congregation to grasp? Ask the Spirit to enable them to grasp these things. What changes do you want to see people make? Ask the Spirit to make these changes. Praying through the sermon is asking God to help people hear and receive your points.

An example of this is **Romans 5:6-8**. The title of the sermon was "*God's Message Through The Cross*." I had four points in this sermon. Through the Cross, God wants to show us:

- (1) His extravagant love;
- (2) His exacting justice;
- (3) His eternal purpose;
- (4) His encouraging promise.

As I prepared and during the week following the sermon, I prayed the following for the congregation:

- God, help this congregation accept and rest in your love; show lost people how much you love sinful people.
- God, help people to know that You are holy and must punish sin; show lost people the terrible consequence of rejecting Jesus.
- God, cause the congregation to know that salvation is Your eternal plan. Help them to see that You have determined to save sinful people.
- God, I pray that this text will encourage people to put away all their excuses and find forgiveness in Jesus and Jesus alone.

Praying over and praying through a sermon can help you preach with power and effectiveness. It provides you with the opportunity to pray for the Spirit's work in your sermon and in the lives of your listener's.

I encourage you to practice praying through your sermons. Plead with God to apply the truth to the hearts of your listeners. As you are preparing the sermon, pray that the people will see and receive the truths that you will declare. You might consider praying your points through the week. By doing this, you are striving to see the truth not just received but planted in the lives of your listeners. By combining prayer and preaching, you can trust God for genuine blessing and change in your listeners.

Copyright © 2006

The Prayer Closet Ministries
P.O. Box 278

Hickory, MS 39332 601-646-2295
www.prayerclosetministries.org