



Pastor PJ Berner • June 14, 2026



Psalm 119:133 and 2 Samuel 5:17-25
Prayers that Change the World: Our Reliance on Prayer

Scripture Memory

“Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain! Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways.”

– Psalm 119:36-37

Application Questions

Community Groups meet throughout the week and play a crucial role in our response to the preaching of the word. These groups gather to discuss the following questions as we seek to apply the sermon in community with one another. Please visit compassntx.org to join a small group near you.

1. Read **2 Samuel 5:17–19** and **Ephesians 6:13–18**. We don’t often think of prayer as part of the armor of God, yet Paul immediately urges believers to be “praying at all times in the Spirit” after listing the armor (Ephesians 6:18). If you were to picture prayer as a specific component of your spiritual armor in this passage, what might it be, and why? In light of David’s response to the Philistines and Paul’s exhortation, how often—and in what regular situations—are you actually using prayer as part of your daily spiritual battle?
2. Read **2 Samuel 5:19–21** and **Daniel 2:20–22**. Using these passages, how would you answer someone who says prayer is pointless because God is already sovereign and will do whatever he wants? What truths about God’s character and his ways with David and Daniel keep you praying big, expectant prayers rather than drifting into perfunctory or “small” prayers—and where do you see that temptation in your own life right now?
3. Read **2 Samuel 5:22–25** and **2 Samuel 10:9–12**. How does Joab show genuine dependence on the wisdom and will of God while still planning, strategizing, and taking courageous action, rather than adopting a “let go and let God” passivity? Think of a time when you sought God’s wisdom in prayer while still moving ahead with your responsibilities—did the Lord redirect you or confirm your path, and how did you discern that through His Word, providence, or counsel?
4. Read **1 Peter 5:8** and **Psalm 33:16–22**, then think back over 2 Samuel 5:17–25. In light of our real spiritual enemy, God’s sovereign power, and our constant need for his wisdom, how would you honestly evaluate your current prayer life? If someone shadowed you for a week, what specific habits or moments would convince them that you genuinely rely on prayer—and where would they see prayer functionally absent? What is one concrete change (a time, place, or pattern) you can make this week to grow in real dependence on God in prayer?

Recommended Reading

- *Does Prayer Change Things* - R.C. Sproul
- *A Praying Life* - Paul Miller
- *E.M. Bounds on Prayer* - E.M. Bounds