SBC Combined Chapel Sam Law

1 March 2018 Missions

**How Prayer Trains Us to be Faithful Ministers**

***2 Chronicles 7:14***

**Topic:** Humility in prayer

**Subject:** How can we establish a sacred space through prayer?

**Complement:** Prayer should lead to humble service.

**Purpose:** The listeners will humbly serve others.

# Introduction

### Interest: Different church architecture shows the priority of each church—ark (Baptist), communion (Anglican), preaching (Reformed), or personality (Lakeside).

### Subject: How can we establish a sacred space through prayer?

### Main Idea: Prayer must be the sacred space for God’s church.

### Background: Solomon prayed for the temple dedication as God’s sacred space.

#### However, Chronicles was post-exilic and thus not referring to the golden first temple but the stone-clad second temple.

#### Yet neither the OT nor the NT puts a sacred space for believers.

### Preview: Four verbs describe the cycle of sanctification based on prayer: humble, pray, seek and turn (cf. Andrew E. Hill, *2 Chronicles*, NIVAC, figure 10).

### Text: 1 Chronicles 7:14

# I. Serving needs examples.

## Dr. Sam’s father built furniture since Jesus was a carpenter.

## Dr. Sam learned to serve and brought his power tools to Singapore.

# II. Serving changed Dr. Sam’s church.

## Dr. Sam sought to follow in his footsteps by putting away chairs, despite the objections of his congregation in Lexington, KY (75% Chinese, 65% whom had PhDs!). About 1-2 people were assigned weekly to clean the tables, taking over 2 hours to accomplish. Soon the 120 people began clearing the tables, taking only 15 minutes.

## He also noticed that the small groups were geographically oriented—Taiwanese, Chinese, Hong Kongers, etc. Yet within four years they had all integrated.

## The opposition group in his church faced many setbacks after voting down God’s pastor.

# III. We must serve in humility (done during chapel).

## Pray for a servant heart toward the back wall.

## Pray on your knees.

# Conclusion

### Show humility in prayer (MI implied but not stated).

### Application: Humbly serve.