

PRAYER

COMMUNICATING WITH GOD

TEACHING NOTES

What is prayer?

- In its simplest form, prayer means to communicate with God; to talk with him.
- Prayer is not a monologue, but a dialogue where God speaks to us as much as we speak to Him.

What do I have to pray to be effective?

- We often feel we need to be eloquent and have the Bible memorized to present our cases just right. But, that misses the point of prayer.
 - “And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.” Matthew 6:5-7 (NJKV)
 - Don't pretend to be something you're not. Be yourself and speak authentically from your heart with your Father.

How can I create better habits of prayer?

- Find a secret place: determine a time and place, and schedule it!
- Pray to the Father in Jesus' name. Have an open & honest dialogue, sharing with the Father the desires of our heart, confessing our sins, & inviting God to speak to us.

What was the 'Jesus' Pattern' for prayer?

- The Lord's Prayer:
 - Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name: Connect with God relationally and worship Him
 - Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven: Asking for God's will to be done in our life & our world
 - Give us today our daily bread: Petition Him and ask for our needs
 - Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us: Ask forgiveness
 - And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one: Asking for God's protection
 - For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever: Remember God is all powerful

What are the biggest keys to prayer?

- Go into your secret place and pray to the father who is already there. Prayer isn't about conjuring up the Father to listen, but about us entering into a space and mind frame in which He is already waiting for us.
- We're not just praying to God, but to a FATHER. This suggests relationship; an intimacy.
- God wants to meet your needs more than you want Him to. He's a good Father. In that, He protects, provides, and affirms identity.

What should I avoid in prayer?

- We mess up prayer when we place our own expectations upon ourselves and prayer; simply meet with God, bring the Word of God, present our needs, confess our sins and have a hearing ear to hear the things God has to say over our lives.

Your challenge: Find a time & place to meet with God, go there, read His Word, share your pain/concerns/sins, read scriptures, ask Him for your needs, listen to Him and watch how He sets your future on a flourishing course with God.

MAKE IT YOUR OWN

Definition of Prayer: To dialogue with God

(to address Him with adoration, confession, supplication, or thanksgiving; to intercede)

Does God hear my prayers?

Read Psalm 116:1-2, Psalm 145:18, 1John 5:14, 1 Peter 3:12, 1 Peter 5:7, 1 John 5:14, Hebrews 4:16, Jeremiah 29:12

Do my prayers need to be prepared or perfected to be effective?

Read Romans 8:26

Does God answer my prayers?

Read Matthew 7:7-8, Matthew 21:22, John 16:23-24, Mark 11:24, Ephesians 3:20, James 5:16, 1 John 5:14

It's important to remember that, as a child of God, you have full access to Him. Just as important, He's not listening begrudgingly--but is actually there eagerly waiting to hear from you! So, set a time & place to meet with Him, because He's expecting you!

Prayer:

Lord, I'm thankful that You are near and desire to hear my prayers. Help me grow in being open as I share my thoughts, needs, pains, and concerns with You more. Help me develop a greater sensitivity to Your voice as we meet and You speak Your love, affections, and identity over me. Grow a greater hunger in me for prayer and spending time in Your presence. In Jesus' name, Amen.