

Prayer – Women’s Bible Study

4.22.20

What is prayer?

How would you define or describe prayer to someone who asked?

“Prayer is an approach of the soul by the Spirit of God to the throne of God.” - Charles Spurgeon

“Personal, communicative response to the knowledge of God.” – “Prayer” Timothy Keller

Why should we pray?

1. We are commanded to pray.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” Philippians 4:6

2. We are expected to pray.

“And when you pray” Matt. 6:5

3. Prayer was an essential ministry for Jesus. **Luke 5:15 & 16**

“...we will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.” Acts 6:4

“Prayer does not fuel the ministry; it is the ministry.” (Grear, JD, *Plumb Line #5*, www.jdgrear.com)

4. Prayer proclaims we serve the One True God.

“What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the Lord our God is near us whenever we pray to him?” Deut. 4:7 <1 Kings 18 & 1 Kings 8>

“...so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you.” 1 Kings 8:43

Who is it we are praying to?

1. God the Son - Jesus

a. Provided the way for our approach to God’s throne.

“Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings” Hebrews 10:19-22

“Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” Hebrews 4:16

b. *“He always lives to intercede for them.”* Hebrews 7:25

2. God the Spirit - Holy Spirit

a. Provides testimony that we are God’s children. **Romans 8:15-16**

b. Prays the will of God for us. **Romans 8:26-27**

3. God the Father – **Luke 11:5-13**

a. God the Father welcomes our persistent prayers (Vs. 5-12)

b. God the Father is responsive. (Vs. 11-13)

“Prayerlessness at its core is a gospel problem. The reason you do not pray is you are unaware of your need or unconvinced of God’s willingness to help.” – (Grear, JD, *Plumb Line #5*, www.jdgrear.com)

How should we pray? – We are in good company when we ask this question! **Luke 11:1-4**

The Lord responds by modeling a prayer for the disciples which includes the following elements: adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication. We will study each of these aspects of prayer over the next four weeks.

Icebreaker: 5-7 minutes

Take some time to introduce yourself in your breakout group and share 3 facts about yourself.

Discussion Questions: 10 minutes

What have you found to be challenging in your own prayer life?

What is one new thing you learned regarding prayer this evening and how will you apply it?