

C2:7 Personal Growth

Part 4 – Prayer

Paying Attention to God (Psalm 145:18-21)

KNOW IT! – PRAYERS' PURPOSE

Prayer is, at its root, simply PAYING ATTENTION TO GOD.

How do we pay attention to God?

1. A deliberate reading of SCRIPTURE. (*Rom. 12:1-2; Psalm 119*)
2. A deliberate strategy to PRAY. (*Luke 5:12-16*)

A SECRET place.

ALONE with Him.

Shutting the doors to DISTRACTIONS.

Why is a lack of continuous prayer sinful? Damages our RELATIONSHIP with GOD.

Why don't we pray? Bottom line is we really do not believe that it WORKS!

Why don't we think it works? We don't really know the One to whom we are praying. OBJECT ISSUE.

Why is prayer so hard? Satan FEARS the prayers of the saints above all else so he obstructs the process.

LIVE IT! – PRAYERS' PRIORITY

Luke 3:21-22 Prayer ENGAGES the Triune God

Luke 5:15-16 Prayer is always the PRIORITY

Luke 6:12-16 Prayer provides clear DIRECTION from the Father

Luke 9:28-29 Prayer POSITIONS us to listen to Him

Luke 11:1-4 Prayer AFFIRMS God's place on His throne

Luke 22:31-32 Prayer THWARTS temptation

Luke 23:34 Prayer PREPARES our heart to forgive

WRITE IT! – PRAYERS' PRIVILEGE

Write out your plan to PAY ATTENTION to God by meditating attentively on the Word and creating your wilderness environment for uninterrupted prayer.

SHARE IT! – PRAYERS' POSSIBILITIES

Say It! Post It! Send It! TEXT 'AGSHAREIT' TO 97000 (Remember the 12:12 Initiative)

Life Group Discussion Questions – July 19, 2020

1 Thessalonians 5:16-19 *Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit.*

QUICK REVIEW

1. How is disobedience to God like taking advantage of His grace? What areas of your life can be viewed as a contradiction to the love you say you have for God?
2. Describe a time when obeying Jesus resulted in a blessing. Did you first struggle in your faith?

MY STORY

1. Have you ever encountered someone who is so chatty that they move from topic to topic without "taking a breath"? Did you stay engaged, really listening? How did you do at keeping it about them? Rate yourself on a 10 scale: "1" - really poor listening; "10" - excellent tracking.
2. In a normal conversation with someone you know, are you preparing your response before they finish speaking? Do you have a tendency to cut them off? Or do you have the patience to let yourself (possibly) learn something new? Discuss the consequences of each response.
3. It's been said that if we neglect prayer, we are neglecting God. What are some of the reasons Christians don't pray? What would it take to make prayer a delight and not a chore?

GOING DEEP

1. What is the point of prayer when God knows the future and is already in control of everything? If we cannot change God's mind, why should we pray? For each scripture below, determine the reason we should pray:

Luke 2:36-38 Philippians 4:6-7 Mark 1:35 Matthew 26:41
Ephesians 6:18-19 1 John 5:14-15 Romans 8:26-27 Luke 6:12-13

2. Read Luke 9:28-29. Share of a time that being in prayer changed you, not considering the outcome(s) of that prayer. Can you say that your countenance was changed? How so? What were the lasting implications?
3. Discuss the idea that we should be in constant communion with God. Is it possible to pray continually and develop this as a discipline in your faith journey? Is there someone in your life that exemplifies this trait? Will you seek their counsel and possible mentorship in this area?

PUTTING IT TOGETHER:

1. What do you think are some of the challenges to living out each point?
2. Which of the above teaching points are most important for you to remember?



KNOW IT

Prayer: A divinely given means whereby the human soul directly addresses God for the purpose of participating with His perfect agenda.

Psalm 19:14

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart – Be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Matt. 6:9-13

“Pray, then, in this way:
‘Our Father who is in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.
‘Your kingdom come.
Your will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
‘Give us this day our daily bread.
‘And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
‘And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”

Luke 6:12

It was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God.

Philippians 4:6

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

James 5:16

Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

Colossians 1:9-12

For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.



LIVE IT

How does prayer impact your life?

What do you notice when you pray consistently?

Is your life affected when your prayers are inconsistent? Explain.
