

Beyond Belief: Prayer ~ Session 6

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Philippians 4:6-7

- You won't be able to understand why you have the peace you have.
- Will set a guard about your hearts and mind literally.

Prayer is an enforcing structure, like steel in concrete to _____ it. Prayer should shoot through our whole lives and permeate _____ we do. We can learn to do that and when we do, we will be anxious for nothing.

Luke 22: 31-32 Jesus _____ for Peter. He prayed for him; why didn't Jesus just fix him?

Luke 9:28-29

- When you pray you place yourself in contact with the real world. And when you come into contact with the real world you're going to look different.
- As Jesus prayed, he became rooted, grounded, deepened in the reality of God and it changed his appearance.

It also gives you a basis for changing your actions.

Matthew 7:7-12

- *"Therefore"* refers us back to the basis for what is said after the word occurs. What is the basis? *"Ask and it shall be given to you..."* (verses 7-11).
- This is a glimpse into the deepest reality of the universe - a law more fundamental than the law of gravity.
- *"How much more will your Father give to those who ask him."* Then you have the "therefore." Now you have the resources.
- You're welcomed into the Kingdom of God and you're dealing with a God like this...*therefore*.

1 Chronicles 4:9-10 Jabez called on the God of Israel asking for blessing himself. Bless me indeed and enlarge my influence/ border /kingdom. ... God granted him what he requested.

Problems with Prayer – because they don't understand the heart of God

Doesn't God already know what I want and what I need? Doesn't God already intend to do for me the things that are good?

The God of the Bible is a God that is presented through his Son, Jesus on Earth as a God who relates to us in a _____ way and helps us understand that what we pray for, what we ask, what we want, what we need, is something we need to _____ take up with Him.



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"God has dignified man with _____.~ Pascal ~ God has given us the power to do things.

- If you have a weed in your flower bed it's better not to pray about the weed. Just pull it.
- If your sister is a drug addict, you're apt to want to just fix it. But that's not in your power. You're dealing with something different.

When Jesus was dealing with Peter he didn't just fix him. He turned it over to God.

- When you fix people, normally it doesn't last very long. When they're changed from the inside, it lasts for a _____.

Prayer is a kind of _____. You can bring things about through prayer. Prayer is so powerful it can't be left to us. Imagine if everyone got what they prayed for.

Where you have dominion, you do what needs done. In the case of people, it's a different story. There's a process involved. With people that's more important than ever.

When we pray, we are tying into a larger system of causality. Prayer is so strong it can't be placed entirely in our hands.

There are some things you can do, and you just do them. But now there are other things. "If you want to do that, come to my office and we'll have a chat, and then we'll see." Does he want us to come? Yes! Will He answer our prayer? Sometimes! And when he does not we can be sure it's better that He didn't.

WHAT IS PRAYER?

Prayer is talking with God about what we're _____. It's also _____ to God about what we're doing together.

Prayer is basically requests about things we and God are doing together.

The Lord's Prayer

- The Address: What distinguishes prayer from _____ is that when you pray, you're talking to someone. If you want to speak to God, you address Him.
- The Request:
 - "Hallowed be Thy name" the most important request of God.
 - "Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done." I'm praying God's Kingdom would come in my life.
- Prayer is basically _____.
 - There's plenty of place for praise and thanksgiving too.

Start by praying about the things that you're concerned about

God has put us in charge of our lives under him. I am supposed to pray about my life – it's the things God and I are doing together that I pray about.



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Keep praying. Ask the Lord to teach you. He will.

Pray about the things that _____ us.

Praying for yourself is not necessarily selfish; it's the best way to be drawn beyond selfishness!

We pray about things together. We work together.

God has put us here to learn how to be present for him and allow the power of God to flow right down where we are.

Begin where we are. Pray for what you're really concerned about. Stay with it. Then the Kingdom of God will move into us and we'll very quickly begin to move out beyond anything we've ever known. We'll begin to genuinely love and care about people that we'd previously had no concern about.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The force at work is the power of _____.

Examples: Luke 11, Luke 18 / the person simply stands with their request. They don't go away.

The power of asking, continued over time.

Prayer is a part of a _____.

Most times it's a three-term relationship: it presupposes that you're going to stay involved in the situation you're praying about while you're staying involved with God. and often it involves us! Sometimes it involves others. You can't just step in and fix it. It's not like pulling weeds. It's dealing with souls.

There is great power and if we stay in that relationship God will respond.

- We live in a universe where the ultimate reality is a personal community of people. A trinitarian universe.
- The law of request is more fundamental than the law of gravity. Gravity is because of that community not the other way around.
- Why does prayer work? Because asking and giving is a fundamental law of the universe.

Why is there an arrangement like this?

- There are good things that God is not going to do if you don't ask him. And there are bad things that God is not going to prevent if you don't ask him.
- Scenario: you have a child and you know what's good for him and you just do it. The child never asks for anything. What would that do to the child? It would destroy them.
- You have to ask for what you want.

God's omnipotence is not the victim of his omniscience.

- He is powerful enough that if He doesn't want to know something He can not know it.
- Self-limitation is not limitation.



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The reason there is an arrangement such as prayer is that so you can I can grow to _____ the people that God intended us to become.

- ✓ You grow by exercising your power in action.
- ✓ You learn by acting.
- ✓ Prayer allows us safely to act beyond any power that we have beyond ourselves.
- ✓ Prayer allows us to step into the KOG and begin to move with that power that is beyond us and do it safely because it is God that is in control.

The general arrangement of prayer is so the children of God can begin to learn to _____ with Him here and now, and exercise the power of God here and now, safely with Him.

Rev. 22:5 Your destiny is to _____ with God forever and ever.

- Learn now to use the power of God to accomplish things that are far beyond any possibility that you have in yourself.
- Begin to experiment with this -make it a part of your life.
- Everything you do as a child of God is by his invitation in his Kingdom. No matter what you're doing you'd invoke the presence of God and ask for his blessing...
- ...and where you know what to ask for or think you do, you're free to ask for that too.
- Watch to see the hand of God in your life.

Don't worry about the heroic stuff. Most of us are meant to pray as we go in the midst of our work. There will be seasons of more intensive prayer but the main thing that we are called to do is to bathe our whole life in _____.

When you look back you will see a sequence of miracles. You'll see God's hand in your life.

We're invited to bring our life into the Kingdom of God and live there in a _____ relationship in which we simply come before the Lord and say what we want and keep that request there.

- Sometimes it's a long time. The issues may be very great. And the changes will depend on other people sometimes. But we stay there with our prayers.
- When you become discouraged remember you don't have anything better to do.
- If there's something to be done, weeds to be pulled, do that.
- But when it comes to the big things you have nothing better to do than stand before the Lord with your request.

It's a process of personal growth and development...He knows how to bring a Peter through the sifting. Never become passive, never become silent.

Be anxious for nothing but in everything with prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God and the peace of God which passes all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7