

Sermon Title: To Pray

Sermon Series: Inviting – All In Together

Scripture: Matthew 6:9-13

Speaker: Pastor Ian Bonthron



1. What is _____?

- *“Prayer is conscious, personal communication with the God of the universe”* —Marshall Segal

COMMUNICATION with God

- Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” 2 And he said to them, “When you pray, say: **“Father**, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. **Luke 11:1-2 ESV**
- Meditation and prayer are different. Meditation focuses on self-affirmation, while prayer focuses on conversations with God.

Communication with GOD

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- **God’s will should guide our prayers**
- 14 And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him. **1 John 5:14-15 ESV**
- *“Prayer is conscious, personal communication with the God of the universe”* —Marshall Segal

2. _____ should we pray?

A. It is _____ to God

- 6 And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. **Hebrews 11:6 ESV**
- Prayer is an act of humility. It is saying “God the best thing I could do right now is to communicate with you.”
- 2 And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” 3 Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. **John 9:2-3 ESV**
- In God’s hands, pain isn’t always removed, but it always has a purpose
- Should we pray for healing, believing God will do it, YES... Should we trust God’s plan over our plan? YES

B. It’s _____ for our benefit

- 6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. **Philippians 4:6-7 ESV**
- 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. **James 1:5-8 ESV**

C. It's used to bring about _____

- 3 And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, 4 and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel. 5 Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake. **Revelation 8:3-5 ESV**
- *“The great point is never give up until the answer comes. I have been praying for 63 years and 8 months for one man’s conversion. He is not saved yet, but he will be. How can it be otherwise? I am praying.”* —George Muller

Invitation: PRAY

3. _____ should I pray? 5 tips

1. Pick a Time and place

- 17 pray without ceasing, **1 Thessalonians 5:17 ESV**
- 35 And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. **Mark 1:35 ESV**

2. Listen first

- “Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!” **Psalms 46:10 ESV**

3. Start with the _____ before the _____

- 28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. **Romans 8:28-29 ESV**

4. Learn from and Pray with Others

- “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” **Luke 11:1b ESV**

5. Use Scripture to guide you

- *“Open the Bible, start reading it, and pause at every verse and turn it into a prayer” — John Piper*
- **Resource for Praying: “The Praying Bible” by Donald S. Whitney**

Invitation: PRAY

Questions:

PLEASE SPEND THE MAJORITY OF YOUR TIME ON THE INTO THE BIBLE SECTION THIS WEEK.

Getting to know you Questions:

1. Describe a time you have personally had a prayer answered.

2. How have you seen prayer impact your life?

3. What keeps most people from praying?

4. Describe a time when a prayer of yours has gone unanswered.
 - a. How did you feel?
 - b. Reading John 9:2-3, what might God be up to in your unanswered prayers?

John 9:2-3 ESV – 2 And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” 3 Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.

Into the Bible Questions:

Instructions: The Bible is full of prayers and passages you can pray through. John Piper recommended we “Open the Bible, start reading it, and pause at every verse and turn it into a prayer.” Below are some passages your group can pray through.

Tips for How to Pray through Scripture

- Pick a passage and pray through it (a suggested list is below)
- Read a portion and stop and have some group members pray about those things
- You can pray for yourself, family, group members, or the world around us with the suggested prayers
- As you are praying through the scripture, feel free to include our church and its people, our elders, our pastoral search, our new pastor, our outreach to our community and world through the prayers listed in the passage

Suggested Prayer Passages

Philippians 1:3-11

3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. 6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. 7 It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace,[a] both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. 8 For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. 9 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, 10 so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Ephesians 1:15-23

15 For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love[a] toward all the saints, 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, 18 having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might 20 that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 3:14-21

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family[a] in heaven and on earth is named, 16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to

know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Colossians 1:9-14

9 And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; 12 giving thanks[a] to the Father, who has qualified you[b] to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. 13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Matthew 6:9-13

9 Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. 10 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread, 12 and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Psalms 3

O Lord, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me; 2 many are saying of my soul, "There is no salvation for him in God." Selah[a] 3 But you, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. 4 I cried aloud to the Lord, and he answered me from his holy hill. Selah 5 I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the Lord sustained me. 6 I will not be afraid of many thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around. 7 Arise, O Lord! Save me, O my God! For you strike all my enemies on the cheek; you break the teeth of the wicked. 8 Salvation belongs to the Lord; your blessing be on your people! Selah

Psalms 30

I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me. 2 O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me. 3 O Lord, you have brought up my soul from Sheol; you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit. 4 Sing praises to the Lord, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name. 5 For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning. 6 As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved." 7 By your favor, O Lord, you made my mountain stand strong; you hid your face; I was dismayed. 8 To you, O Lord, I cry, and to the Lord I plead for mercy: 9 "What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness? 10 Hear, O Lord, and be merciful to me! O Lord, be my helper!" 11 You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, 12 that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever!

Application Questions

What could you do to help yourself pray more this week?

Take some time as a group to pray for each other and the people you look to share Jesus with this week.