Sermon: Prayer- Communication with God Series: Prayer and the Word Date: January 12, 2020 Primary Scripture: Matthew 6:5-13

- I. What prayer isn't...
  - 1. It isn't for God's benefit.
  - 2. It doesn't change God's mind.
- II. Prayer is communicating with God.
  - 1. Listen to God more than you talk to Him.
  - 2. Prayer is for our benefit.
  - 3. Prayer is a way God changes our minds.
  - 4. Prayer is a means God uses to align our wills with His.
- III. We need to pray the way Jesus taught us to pray.
  - 1. Prayer should never be self-centered.
  - 2. God wants us to address Him as Father.
  - 3. Our prayer must focus on God and His character.
  - 4. Prayer communicates our need for God.
- IV. Challenges:
  - 1. Continue reading God's Word this week.
  - 2. Pray after your time in God's Word (Listen to what He has to say first, then you respond).
  - 3. Don't recite the Lord's prayer as a habit... INSTEAD... use it as a model.
  - 4. Journal your prayers (It'll help you focus).
  - 5. Pray Scripture back to God (It is SO powerful when you pray God's Word back to Him!).