



**SONS & DAUGHTERS**  
**Fellowship with the Father**  
**Week 6**

## **Opening prayer**

### **Prayer for the persecuted church:**

### **Prayer for a local church:**

This morning we pray for our brother Chris Suitt and New Hope Church.

## **Closing prayer**

## **Introduction:**

How do legalism and license both destroy prayer? Legalism prays without compassion and fellowship, because the legalist prays out

of self-righteousness, to make God think well of him. License destroys prayer because it does not pray. It is lazy, unconcerned and self-sufficient. License seeks gratification from the things of this world; it has no concern for the unseen world.

Both types of prayer are self-focused, self-centered.

**Big Idea: Prayer is the way the kingdom of self is broken down**

**and the kingdom of God is lifted  
up.**

How do we begin to think like this and pray like this? First, by remembering we are sons & daughters of Almighty God.

**1. Pray as a son or daughter of the  
King.**

Listen to what the Lord here says about His children.

# **Zephaniah 3:17**

**<sup>17</sup> The Lord your God is in your midst,  
a mighty one who will save;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness;  
he will quiet you by his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing.**

Now, this is where spacing our kids eight years apart has paid off. The Bible illustrates how great God's love and concern are for us by reminding us imperfect sinful creatures

how much we love our children, then asking,  
“How much more God as our Father?”

So, in order to pray like a son or daughter of  
God, you have to know the Fatherheart of  
God.

## **Zephaniah 3:17**

**<sup>17</sup> The Lord your God is in your midst,**

He's always with us. He's not an absentee father. He's involved in everything in our lives. He's interested in everything in our lives.

**a mighty one who will save;**

Not only will He save you, He has saved you. Whatever we experience when we actually pass from this world we have been saved from the sting of death. It will not touch us even as we pass through it. But He's also mighty to save us now. Where do you think the instinct of a man to protect his family

comes from? The more our culture diminishes the roles of men in society and especially the home the more the children of our culture will suffer.

**he will rejoice over you with gladness;**

- When Kate was little...

**he will quiet you by his love;**

When children know their parents love them they have a quiet confidence.



**he will exult over you with loud singing.**

## **Ephesians 3:12**

**<sup>12</sup> in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.**

We have access to our Father in heaven because of Christ. When you pray, remind yourself that He wanted you. You are a wanted child. Now, that's amazing in itself, but

being God's child would be impossible if not for Who God is.

So, prayer always begins with Who God is. Focus on God. How obvious that is, but how little it is practiced. Don't we normally just launched right into our personal needs? And He is concerned with our personal needs, but in fellowshiping with God through prayer He is teaching us to think like Jesus, to have our focus on the Father's will.

That leads us to our second point today:

## **2. Pray as though God is in control.**

**“Not my will, but Thy will be done.”**

**That’s the core of how Jesus prayed. When we pray like God’s in control it frees us from anxiety. Anxiety often reveals the kingdom of self, that we have ambitions, desires, dreams, demands and expectations that are focused on us, not upon God. That’s why we’re anxious about them. But when our ambitions**

are the Lord's ambitions for His kingdom, then we are partners with God, as Paul phrases it, and we can let Him "worry" about how these things will finally be accomplished.

One of the reasons I decided to do this series was for that very reason: I found this material of C. John Miller helpful in how I thought about God as my Father, which in turn helped how I felt as a Christian. And it helped how I felt about prayer.

**Our attitudes toward prayer are directly linked to the what we believe God thinks of us. When you feel like you're failing God, you'll shrink away from prayer. But what mindset does that reveal? You should know this by now — self-righteousness; self-focused; self-centered. In the gospel, because of Christ, we are no longer striving for acceptance, because we are accepted in the Beloved.**

**What is your real attitude toward prayer? How many of these statements can you agree with?**

- **God is really interested in my conversing with Him.**
- **Prayer will accomplish much good; it is not pointless.**
- **God longs to capture my heart.**
- **I am as independent and self-willed as God says I am.**
- **I have a spirit of timidity that desperately needs God.**
- **Prayer is a great investment of my time.**
- **I desperately need God, even when I am not in crisis.**

- **The Father is there; he hears me, and he will respond.**
- **His response is always very good, even if my circumstances do not improve.**
- **I am involved in a spiritual battle.**
- **People can be converted or changed through my prayers.**
- **Prayer is a time of adoration and personal worship.**

**Those are attitudes that align with the biblical record. It's the kind of faith the church needs, because we often don't pray because we just**

don't think it's going to do any good. That's not a low view of prayer. It's a low view of Christ. The greater you think Christ is, the more apt you are to go to Him for help, the more apt you will be to trust Him with every aspect of your life, which leads us to our third point:

**3. A giant Christ leads to giant Christians.**



# Psalm 37:4

**4 Delight yourself in the Lord,  
and he will give you the desires of your  
heart.**

- The real question: Do you really enjoy God?
- George Mueller: “I had to die to what George Mueller thinks about George Mueller. You really can’t live for God’s glory or have fellowship with God if you are thinking about what you think of yourself.”

## 4. Realize that God is ready to meet with you and reveal Himself.

- Preparing to see your attitude changed
- Preparing to walk the law (Matt. 7:12)

### **Matthew 7:12 (NIV)**

**<sup>12</sup> So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.**

- Self-forgetful prayer

- **“You don’t have to choose between staying close to Me and staying on course. Since I am the Way, staying close to Me is staying on course.”**