



Sermon Title: Foundation Project week 2

Sermon Title: Sit With Him

Date: 10/23/2022

Prayer is an action you take to create an immediate connection to God the Father. **Matthew 7:7-11**

Big Idea: Talk to God; He's waiting for you!

Your prayer life is the lifeblood of your relationship with God. This passage and others reveal several ENCOURAGEMENTS about your prayer life.

Encouragement 1: Prayer can be spoken simply.

Ask, seek, knock - Jesus isn't telling us to follow some type of ritual or formula with our prayers – prayer is a simple conversation with God.

God is ready to listen and wants to hear from you! There is great potential for conversation with God. But the line of communication gets all frozen up by:

- the devils' distractions
- our over-complicating the conversation or the process
- we feel like our conversation (prayers) need to be perfect or sound good.

And that's part of what Jesus is talking about. Deliberately speak to God with simple, honest conversations.

One of Jesus' prayers is this simple:

"My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." (Matthew 26:39 ESV)

One of King David's prayers in the Bible begins like this:

"Oh Lord, I am calling to you. Please hurry! Listen when I cry to you for help!" That comes from Psalm 141.

Prayer can be spoken simply! Our prayer life is a direct reflection of our relationship with Christ. Don't make it complicated, and don't delay in bringing your requests before God.

Encouragement 2: Prayer builds a relationship with the Lord.

James 5.16

James tells us How God sees every believer... Righteous: A Righteous Person is someone who is Right-with-God. If you have been saved by faith in Jesus, you are a righteous person.

1st prayer (conversation) – builds your relationship with the Lord.

Tell him: *I am a sinner in need of salvation. I believe Jesus' death on the cross paid ALL penalties for my sin. Jesus, be the savior and ruler of my life.*

Encouragement 3: Prayer is going to be effective.

James 5.16b, Matthew 7:7-11

God teaches us that our prayers have great power and lead to results - This is where our conversation gets tough, because, for all of us, there are parts of life that seem ... not so wonderful. Maybe it seems like your prayers are going unanswered, and you do not see the fantastic results. While you are waiting and listening, you're faced with frustration and discouragement; maybe you are even getting upset. For this, the only satisfying response is to Trust in God and the truth of His word.

Jesus teaches us to pray always; we should never stop. Jesus encourages us to come to God as often as needed. Luke 18:1, Luke 18:7

God's word tells us to pray in faith, knowing that God will hear our prayers and answer us according to HIS plan

God always answers a prayer immediately with either a "yes", "no", or "not yet"; that's because - God always hears our prayers and answers them, with the results of His will being done in our lives.

Prayer is effective. 1 John 5.14

We can be confident, not fearful or frustrated – when we are willing to look at our requests through God's eternal eyes, remembering that his plan is for all of mankind, not just my self-centered ideas: ASK, SEEK, KNOCK

Train yourself to think more like Jesus

Discussion Questions:

- What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?
- What are the most common reasons people don't pray?
- Is there ever an instance when a Christian should not pray? Explain
- Describe what it means to you that God, the one who spoke the world into existence, invites you to talk to Him personally.
- What is the balance between praying to change a situation in your life and taking personal action to change a situation in your life?
- Describe a time when you prayed, and God DID NOT answer with a "yes." How did that impact your faith?
- Describe a time when you prayed, and God DID answer with a "yes." How did that impact your faith?

Reading Guide week 2

<input type="checkbox"/>	October 23	Genesis 21:1-22:19	Isaac's Birth and Testing
<input type="checkbox"/>	October 24	Genesis 32:1-33:20	Jacob and Esau Reconcile
<input type="checkbox"/>	October 25	Genesis 37:1-36	Joseph Sold into Slavery
<input type="checkbox"/>	October 26	Genesis 39:1-41:57	Prison and Deliverance
<input type="checkbox"/>	October 27	Genesis 42:1-38	Ten Brothers go to Egypt
<input type="checkbox"/>	October 28	Genesis 43:1-44:34	The Brothers Return
<input type="checkbox"/>	October 29	Genesis 45:1-46:7	Joseph Reveals his Identity