

Acts 2:42-47

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Matthew 6:1, 6-15

¹ "Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven...

⁶ But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ⁷ And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

⁹ This, then, is how you should pray: '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 today 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 the evil one.' ¹⁴ For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."

CORE

8 Essentials for the Church

Prayer

Acts 2:42-47, Matthew 6:1, 6-15

2/2/2020

A CHALLENGE TO US

The early church saw prayer as much more **CENTRAL** to their Christian life than we do, and prayed much more **FREQUENTLY** than we do.

WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE YOU PRAY

- A Christian's identity is **RECEIVED**, not **ACHIEVED**.
- Obedience in public doesn't guarantee a reward from God, because **MOTIVE** is more important than simple **ACTIVITY**.
- Even though God already **KNOWS**, we should not hesitate to **ASK**.
- Prayer is as much about changing US – even while we seek God's **RESPONSE**.

WHEN YOU PRAY

1. **ADORING**.
2. **ACCEPTING**. (Romans 8:28)
3. **ASKING**.
 - Prayer is not just **VERTICAL**, it must also be **HORIZONTAL**.
4. **REBELLING** against the **EVIL** status quo.

PRINCIPLES IN PRAYER

1. **AWE**: Praising his Glory.
2. **INTIMACY**: Finding his Grace.
 - We must not lose our grip on either the **COSTLINESS** or the **FREENESS** of God's forgiveness.
3. **STRUGGLE**: Asking his Help. (*Psalm 61:1-2, James 4:2-3*)

BEGIN, AGAIN

The requirement for praying the way Jesus envisions is a **GRACE**-based **FAMILY** relationship with God as father.

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8 Essentials for the Church

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GROWTH GROUP DIGGING DEEPER QUESTIONS

To catch the weekend message, go to the [MTC App](#), or [MissionTrailsChurch.com](#).

GETTING STARTED

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, **was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, inspired or confused you?**

DIGGING DEEPER

2. Read [Matthew 6:1, 6-15](#). **What was Jesus criticizing about the prayer of his contemporaries?**

3. **Of these four parts of *The Lord's Prayer*, which is the one you most need to understand and apply as you think about your relationship to God in prayer?**

1. ADORING.
2. ACCEPTING.
3. ASKING.
4. REBELLING against the EVIL status quo.

GETTING PERSONAL

4. **What barriers do you have to prayer in your own life?**

5. **What SUCCESSES have you had in prayer in your own life?**

BRINGING IT HOME

6. **How have you learned how to pray?**

7. **In light of the passage, or what you've discussed, what is one way you'd like to take another step in PRAYER?**

Or...

What is one thing the Holy Spirit is leading you to do?

PRAY TOGETHER

Take some time to pray together after your group meeting. Try praying through the Lord's prayer using these four categories. One or two people can pray something from each section:

1. ADORING God for who he is.
2. ACCEPTING his will and leadership in our lives.
3. ASKING for needs, small and large.
4. REBELLING against the EVIL status quo by praying for God's justice in the world, protection of the weak and vulnerable, and advance of the gospel message.