

WE EXIST TO MAKE DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES

Step 4

Prioritize Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13 Hebrews 4:16 When we receive Christ, we have direct access to God through Jesus Christ. We have a direct line available 24/7 by which we might communicate with Him, hear from Him, and submit our will to His. This is the wonderful work of prayer. And as we continue on The Disciple's Journey, a necessary spiritual step is to prioritize prayer.

The idea of making prayer a priority can seem pretty daunting. Often prayer can conjure up misguided images of rote religious ceremonies or long-winded monologues or desperate pleas only to be used in difficult seasons. But the Bible talks about prayer in much warmer terms. The Bible talks about prayer in a way that is intimate and keeps eternity in mind.

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. – Hebrews 4:16

Prayer is ultimately dependence upon God, an opportunity to speak to God, and an opportunity to hear from God. It's a part of our intimate, loving relationship with God. It is rooted less in the words that we are using and more on our heart's posture and Whom we are talking with. Take inventory of your prayer life. How often do you pray? What is it that you typically pray about or for?

Read

This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. - Matthew 6:9-13

Reflect

- I. What does this passage ("The Lord's Prayer") help us to understand about God as Father? Why is this significant?
- 2. We forget that God is not a genie but a person who wants to shape us in the image of his Son as much as he wants to answer our prayers." Paul Miller, A Praying Life.
- 3. What does it mean to have our wills aligned with God's? Are we able to know the will of God? Read Romans 12:1-2 for guidance in this question.
- 4. What would change in our prayers if they were more similar to the Lord's Prayer?

There are many ways that one can pray. As stated above, prayer is ultimately about whom we are talking with. Prayer is about God first, and keeping at the center as we communicate with Him. As you begin to prioritize prayer in your life, one model that may be helpful for you is called ACTS: Adoration (praising God for who He is and what He has done), Confession (confessing and repenting of your sins before the Lord), Thanksgiving (thanking Him for the blessings in your life), Supplication (interceding on behalf of others).



