

PRAY FIRST Part 2

Meeting With God

Intro:

Ephesians 6:18 (GW)

Pray in the Spirit in every situation. Use every kind of prayer and request there is.

- Too often, prayer becomes our last resort, but God wants it to be our first response
- Prayer is how we stay tethered to God, not just on the weekends or tuff times but every moment of every day.
- It's about our personal relationship with a personal God. It's how we talk to God and how He talks to us.
- It can be intimidating, it was for me (Uncle Eddie, "That was pretty good.")
- Bible is full of models- this is one of my favorites- My pastor taught me 20 years ago.

The Prayer of Moses:

- Most know the story of Moses: Hebrews coming out of Egypt, going to the Promised Land
- Would build a Temple, but needed a portable version along the way
- It was called the Tabernacle- Rectangle tent with 6 pieces of furniture
- God lived in a building then but now He lives in us. He used to write on tablets but now He writes on our hearts. It's BETTER!!

Exodus 25:8-9 NLT

"Have the people of Israel build me a holy sanctuary so I can live among them. You must build this Tabernacle and its furnishings exactly according to the pattern I will show you.

Show Tabernacle Picture

- A pattern, or protocol to the Presence of God

Exodus 33:11 NLT

Inside the Tent of Meeting, the LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend.

- Face to face! That's when prayer gets amazing, when it's so real that you know you're talking with God and He's talking to you
- The Tabernacle is an enduring picture of stepping toward God
- So what do those steps toward God mean? 7 steps with 6 pieces of furniture.

The Outer Court: Give God thanks.

Psalm 100:4 NIV

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

- Thanks is how you praise God
- It's easy to just start and tell God what you want, but we need to stop and say thank you for what we already have
- Gratitude is one of the healthiest emotions you can have. Gratitude turns what we have into enough
- Do this every day, think of a fresh reason to thank Him

2. The Brazen Altar: Focus on the Cross. *Brazen altar graphic*

- The Brazen Altar was a place where there were animal sacrifices
- When sin was committed, blood had to be shed
- You'd have to go right by this altar to get to God...See all of the blood and remember what you did; PAID FOR!
- Focus on the Cross! Thank God we don't have to sacrifice animal because Jesus' Blood was the ultimate sacrifice, but we need to remember that the only way we get to God is the sacrifice of Jesus
- In prayer, walk by the cross, remember the sacrifice, and be grateful it's paid for

Isaiah 53:5 NIV

But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him and by His wounds we are healed.

- Pierced for Transgressions (Spikes): what you did, where you crossed the line
- Crushed for Iniquities (Spear): who you are and what you feel on the inside, your heart
- Punishment for Peace (Crown): anxiety, fear, worry, stress...all pain in the head
- Wounds for Healing (Stripes): healing in every area, my life, marriage, emotions

3. The Laver: Offer every part of my life to God. *Laver graphic*

- The laver was a place of washing: water with mirrors in the bottom
- You could see your condition and be cleaned. Jesus forgave you once and for all, but every day we ask God to change us, clean us, and renew us
- Offer every part of my life to God

Romans 12:1 NIV

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.

- My tongue – help me say the right things today
- My eyes – help me see things the way You do
- My ears – help me tune you in and tune you out
- My hands – help me serve others
- My feet – order my steps, go and do what You want

4. The Candlestick: Invite the work of the Holy Spirit in my life. *Candlestick graphic*

- As you stepped into a smaller tent within the tent – Candlestick
- All throughout Scripture it represents the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit
- The Spirit enables us to say no to wrong things and guides us to the right things
- The Spirit empowers us with gifts to help others

2 Timothy 1:6-7 NLT

This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you. For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

- We have to stir it up! Fan it into flame. Spend time asking God to use you. His power and anointing
- You are called and have spiritual gifts!

5. The Table of Shewbread: Claim the promises in God's Word. *Table of Shewbread graphic*

- There was a table with 12 loaves of fresh baked bread. You could smell it, you wanted it. This is how we should desire God's Word.

Matthew 4:4

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

- God's Word is our daily bread, so include Scripture reading in your prayer time
- Let God speak through His Word.
- Just like food has the nutrients to fight off sickness and diseases...It is an offensive weapon against the enemy. Paul calls it a sword!

Ephesians 6:10-18 NIV

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes... (Take) the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.

6. The Altar of Incense: Worship His Name. *Altar of Incense graphic*

- Right before you parted the last curtain to get to where God was there was a small altar burning incense
- Coals from the Brazen Altar with incense represented 24 hours a day of worship
- God's favorite smell is when we worship (intimacy with the Father)

Psalm 95:6-7 NIV

Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

- Worship comes from the word "worth"
- Praise = what He's done. Worship: who He is.
- We sing about God's worth (not ours) and His worth is found in His Names

Proverbs 18:10

The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.

Holy, Righteous, Peace, Counselor, Friend, Shepherd, Healer, Provider, Defender, Always There

7. The Ark of the Covenant: Intercede for others. *Ark of the Covenant graphic*

- You've probably seen this piece of furniture in Raiders of the Lost Ark except our faces aren't melted off.
- But the priest would go into that place and like an attorney/advocate, they would make intercession. Plead your case on behalf of others. Amy and I do this every day for you.
- The Bible tells us where to start

1 Timothy 2:1-2 NIV

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

- Prayer for those in authority (spiritual, civil, workplace, parental)
- Pray for our nation (Break dissension – hatred – discord)
- Our cities and state
- My family – relationships (Break the spirit of divorce – healing of the home)
- My church (pastors, staff, leaders, vision, resources)
- My need

The Prayer of _____, not just Moses.

God wants to meet with you face to face this week through prayer!