

# May 25, 2025

Glenn Garvin

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**BIG IDEA** – God is our highest priority, right? Why aren't we having more conversations and connections with Him?

**Scripture Focus** – Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know. **Jeremiah 33:3**

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What's the secret weapon in war, work, and wedlock? Communication! Without it, armies flounder, companies crumble, and marriage couples turn into awkward roommates. So **why do we treat prayer**—our lifeline with God—like it's optional? If communication is key everywhere else, it's definitely non-negotiable in a relationship with the Creator of the universe. Let's stop ghosting God.

Communication is critical in war, workplace and especially in **love**.

"Whether on a hill, in a dale, or on a dusty trail, battlefield communications are essential to every service member no matter their location. Be it the individual service member in the field to the pilot flying the jet, the ability to communicate clearly and concisely is extremely important during times of conflict." Petty Officer 2nd Class Dominique Shelton

"Communication in the workplace is important because it boosts employee morale, engagement, productivity, and satisfaction. Communication is also key for better team collaboration and cooperation. Ultimately, effective workplace communication helps drive better results for individuals, teams, and organizations. Allaya Cooks-Campbell

"The importance of communication in relationships cannot be overemphasized. This is because communication is the basis of any relationship. Without it, there would be no understanding, no improvement, and no learning."

### **Communication:**

- In **war**, connection ensures **coordination and survival**.
- In the **workplace**, connection **fosters collaboration and productivity**.
- In **love**, connection is the **heartbeat of intimacy and trust**.

**When we think about our relationship with God and committing to becoming life-long disciples as well as discipling others, wouldn't a connection and communication be one of the most important priorities?**

## Communication:



From pictographs to words on stone, wood or parchment or animal skin. **It took from the 4th millennium BCE to the 1436 to mass produce printed words.**



Then all the way to the 1830s to go from written words to verbal words carried across hundreds of miles. Almost 400 years of advancement in communication technology.



Then it took another 400 years for communication technology to evolve from the printing press to the electric telegraph.



And even though the telephone was invented in 1876, it took almost 80 years until the 1950s for most American households to have telephone.

## ACCELERATION!



Motorola introduced their mobile phone in 1973, but it took until the late 1980s, before mobile cellular technology was available to some Americans – **30 years difference.**



In 1992, Nokia became the first mass produced cell phone. And also, in 1992 came the introduction to **texting over a cell phone**. The first SMS (Short Message Service) was sent by Neil Papworth, at Vodafone's holiday office party. Neil was asked to develop a messaging system. Simply put, the **SMS message said, "Merry Christmas!"**



Cell phones wildly proliferated from 1992 to 2000's but the first Blackberry was released in 2002 – and sold millions.



The Sidekick was also hugely popular, especially with youth who's fingers could fly through text messages – most exchanging 5000-6000 texts a month!



**In 2007 Apple introduced the iPhone.** From **Nokia to iPhone only took 15 years**, but the American adoption rate for owning a cell phone went to 96%.

**Communication between one person to another not only became instant and easy, but it also became global! Going from rotary dial-up to satellite cell phones!**

**Why do I even mention all the new cell phone technology?**

**For two reasons:**

**One, what took 80 years to become popular in our homes, only took 25 years for it to become popular in our pockets!**

**Two, even though human communication flourished over the last 75 years from dial up to instant messaging has it improved our relationships?**

**Talking with God is DIFFERENT!**

**Talking with God both improves our relationship with him, thus improving us and our interaction with others!**

**– In our series 7 Dimensions of Discipleship**

As we go over the 7 habits and practices of discipleship –

1.  **Worship**
2.  **Bible**
3.  **Prayer**

4.  Missions
5.  Holy Spirit
6.  Generosity and
7.  Service

This week we are looking at Prayer as the communication priority of our discipleship journey, helping us both **BE** and **MAKE DISCIPLES**.

**I still believe communication is critical in relationship!**

**And, although I text, call and even Facetime (video calls) those I love, there is nothing that beats a face-to-face get together – which is even better over TACOS!**

If you love someone you show it. There are a lot of things we do to show someone we love them, but the primary way is talking to them.

**It would have been so odd to go to church and show this one specific girl that I like her when I was 17 by going to everyone in our youth group and talk about her, but never talk to her.**

**Nowadays, if I do not talk to that girl who became my wife, she knows something is wrong! In relationships silence isn't golden.**

Communicating with God has been around since Adam and Eve got booted from the garden – that conversation is called **prayer!**

There's a point when going directly to God to talk with him becomes the main way we show him we love him.

Prayer uses the most basic, easiest form of connecting **our voice**. So that even a preschooler can learn to talk with God! And when we teach our children to pray, to talk with God, we give them an eternal gift that goes beyond their life here on earth.

We can start out praying with others, listening and learning how it's done, but sooner rather than later, you need to speak for yourself.

**What was the first prayer you learned?**

[George Wheler](#) in his 1698 book *The Protestant Monaster* **made this prayer sticky for years!**

**“Now I lay me down to sleep,  
I pray the Lord my Soul to keep;  
If I should die before I 'wake,**

**I pray the Lord my Soul to take."**

The prayer was also printed in 1687, *The New England Primer*.

**Prayer is the primary way for the believer in Jesus Christ to communicate his emotions and desires with God and to fellowship with God.**

**Prayer is talking with God about what we are doing together.** - Dallas Willard

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"Prayer is the way we write the future; it is how you set the future before it happens" - Mark Batterson.

"Prayer isn't just the way **we cultivate our own potential**; prayer is the way **we recognize potential in others.**" **Mark Batterson**

"Like Paul, who saw gifts in Timothy that Timothy couldn't see in himself, we, through prayer, are enabled to see with prophetic eyes. We are given supernatural insight. Then we are prepared to speak with prophetic boldness into the lives God has positioned in our path." **Mark Batterson**

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**Prayer is one of the greatest mysteries in discipleship.**

Consider these questions:

- God is Creator, Sustainer and sovereign over the world, so **why does He teach us to pray?**
  - God is all-powerful, all-knowing, and present everywhere, **so why does He want us to pray?**
  - God already knows our needs, **so why should we bother asking?**
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**Humans are privileged with the ability to experience fellowship with God.**

**Prayer is the bi-directional communication for fellowship with God.**

How wonderful that God provides a way for us to freely communicate with Him! Prayer is also a means of accessing spiritual authority in human affairs.



**Why should we pray?**

### 1. It's how a relationship with God works!

- John writes about **having fellowship with the Father and with Jesus** – this amazing Greek word “koinonia” Fellowship. The word was used in the culture as **meaning "partner" or "sharer."** **Participating in life together.**
- **We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. 1 John 1:3**
- John believed it was this kind of deeply connected relationship we have with God.
- Paul tells the young Thessalonica church, **“pray continually,”** [1 Thessalonians 5:17](#) (NIV)
- Paul speaks of “the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,” indicating the **intimate relationship and shared life believers have through the Spirit.** [2 Corinthians 13:14](#)

### 2. It's how we partner with God.

- The **Church has been given spiritual authority through Jesus.** He promised **He would build the Church himself**, and no power can overcome it (Matthew 16:18).
- The Kingdom of God is a Kingdom of power ([1 Corinthians 4:20](#)). That power can be accessed through prayer as demonstrated in:
  - healing ([James 5:13–16](#))
  - miracles ([Acts 9:36–43](#))
  - deliverance ([Acts 12:1–17](#))
  - signs and wonders ([Acts 4:23–31](#))
  - outpourings of the Holy Spirit (Acts [1:14](#); [2:4](#))

### 3. It's how we pursue God's will.

- Jesus taught His disciples to pray, **“May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven”** ([Matthew 6:10](#)). When we pray, we should petition God to bring about His will in people's lives and throughout the entire world.
- **One of the highest goals of prayer is to bring about God's will in human affairs. The focus of prayer should be God's will, not your will or my will.** God is not our servant. He's not obligated to do what we want. Instead, we are God's servants. We want His will to be accomplished. We should pray like Jesus did: **“I want your will to be done, not mine”** ([Matthew 26:39](#)).



#### Benefits to believers.

**I am challenged to look at a list of what prayer can accomplish, and it's not all just to benefit me – it also benefits those closest to me.**

### 1. Prayer is about relationship—God Desires Fellowship.

- “Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.” **Jeremiah 33:3**

## 2. Prayer is Dependence on God.

- “Make thankfulness your sacrifice to God, and keep the vows you made to the Most High. Then call on me when you are in trouble, and I will rescue you, and you will give me glory.” **Psalms 50:14-15**

## 3. Prayer Reveals Reverence and Worship.

- “Then one night the Lord appeared to Solomon and said, **“I have heard your prayer and have chosen this Temple as the place for making sacrifices.** At times I might shut up the heavens so that no rain falls, or command grasshoppers to devour your crops, or send plagues among you. Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land. My eyes will be open and my ears attentive to every prayer made in this place.” **2 Chronicles 7:12-15**

## 4. Prayer Aligns Us With God's Will.

- **Matthew 6:10 NLT** “May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.”

## 5. Prayer Builds Faith and Persistence.

- **Luke 18:1** “One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up.”
- The story was about a widow who was stubbornly persistent and how effective it can be. It's also a compare & contrast parable where Jesus talks about an uncaring, unjust judge compared to how much God does care and He is always listening and just.
- **Luke 18:2-8 – The persistent widow**  
 “There was a judge in a certain city,” he said, **“who neither feared God nor cared about people. A widow of that city came to him repeatedly, saying, ‘Give me justice in this dispute with my enemy.’** The judge ignored her for a while, but finally he said to himself, ‘I don’t fear God or care about people, but **this woman is driving me crazy. I’m going to see that she gets justice, because she is wearing me out with her constant requests!**’” Then the Lord said, “Learn a lesson from this unjust judge. Even he rendered a just decision in the end. So don’t you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will grant justice to them quickly!”

## 6. Prayer Releases Peace.

- **Philippians 4:6–7** Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

- **God wants us to pray so He can exchange our anxiety for His peace.**

## **7. Prayer Gives Us Authority and Power.**

- **James 5:16 NLT** “Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. **The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.**”



### **Obstacles to prayer**

1. Mental distractions
2. Physical fatigue
3. Loss of spiritual motivation
4. Disappointment from unanswered prayers
5. Doubt about the power of prayer
6. Confusion about the purpose of prayer
7. Inconsistency in prayer
8. Overcrowded schedules
9. Spiritual drought

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**My job is to equip you to pray and encourage you to pray.**

**Remember, if you want to walk with God, you'll talk with God!**

And God will walk with you, and talk with you. Over time, you will learn:

- to hear his voice.
- discern God leading you.
- partner with God in His mission.
- enjoy God's presence as your relationship with Him deepens.
- walk in God's forgiveness and mercy and extend that to other people.

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### **Public reciting**

**Matthew 6:9-11 KJV**

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

**Take a chance to be prayed over or to pray over someone else!**

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## SCRIPTURES

**1 John 1:3 NLT** And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

**1 Thessalonians 5:17 NIV** pray continually.

**Matthew 26:39 NLT** I want your will to be done, not mine.

**Jeremiah 33:3** Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.

**Psalms 50:14-15 NLT** Make thankfulness your sacrifice to God, and keep the vows you made to the Most High. Then call on me when you are in trouble, and I will rescue you, and you will give me glory.

**2 Chronicles 7:12-15 NLT** Then one night the Lord appeared to Solomon and said, "I have heard your prayer and have chosen this Temple as the place for making sacrifices. At times I might shut up the heavens so that no rain falls, or command grasshoppers to devour your crops, or send plagues among you. Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land. My eyes will be open and my ears attentive to every prayer made in this place.

**Matthew 6:10 NLT** May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

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**James 5:16 NLT** Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

## Matthew 6:9-13 ON SCREEN

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

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## NOTES

**Prayer is to every believer, what breathing is to our bodies.”** Donna Barrett, General Secretary of the Assemblies of God.

**Finding onramps to prayer** – Donna Barrett. “[Leveling the praying field](#)”



### [What does the Lord's Prayer Mean?](#)

Understanding prayer is the beginning point of learning how to communicate with God. Prayer is simply talking and listening to God. Over time, this leads to growing intimacy with Him. Here are some prayer truths to keep in mind as you continue growing as a Spirit-filled disciple:

1. Prayer is a privilege.
2. Prayer is a constant responsibility.
3. Prayer is essential in spiritual warfare.
4. Prayer is effective for spiritual work.
5. Prayer brings us into God's presence.



### [Prayer made simple: A Beginner's Guide](#) by Katie Ward

“Prayer, at its heart, is about connection and relationship—just you reaching out to God, seeking comfort, guidance, or even just a moment to say thanks for the small wins of the day.”



### [What is prayer? GotQuestions.org](#)

“It is the communication of the human soul with the Lord who created the soul. **Prayer is the primary way for the believer in Jesus Christ to communicate his emotions and desires with God and to fellowship with God.**”

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## F.A.C.T.S. Prayers

F-A-C-T-S:

### 1. Focus

- Prayer begins by focusing on God. Recognize His presence. Tune in and practice the presence of God. Focusing on God will help you ignore distractions.

### 2. Adoration

- Prayers saturated with praise invite the presence of God. Psalm 22:3 reminds us that God inhabits or is enthroned on the praises of His people.
- One of the best ways to pray worshipfully is to focus on one attribute of God—like faithfulness, love, holiness, grace, or sovereignty. How have you seen this characteristic of God at work in your life, your family, your church, or your community? Spend some time praising God for that facet of His character.

### 3. Confession

- The old adage is true: confession is good for the soul. It's biblical as well (1 John 1:9). In fact, confession is fundamental to healing and wholeness. Confessing simply means admitting our sin and asking for God's forgiveness, which He graciously gives.
- Not only should we ask God to forgive us, but we must also forgive others (Matthew 6:12; Ephesians 4:32). Refusing to forgive leads to built-up anger, resentment, and bitterness. It stunts a person's spiritual growth and hinders prayer. Most dangerous of all, it means our own sins will not be forgiven (Matthew 6:14–15).

### 4. Thanksgiving

- One element of prayer is making a mental or written list of the blessings God has given you. Thanksgiving is the cure for criticism, greed, envy, and especially anxiety (Philippians 4:6).

### 5. Supplication

- Supplication simply means asking God for the things you need. There is no need too big for God's power and no need too small for His fatherly care. Prayer brings deliverance from anxiety concerning the basic provisions of life (Matthew 6:25–33).
- When Jesus mentioned daily bread in His prayer in Matthew 6:11, the disciples would have likely been reminded of Israel in the wilderness receiving daily manna from God. Just as God provided for His people back then, He continues to meet the needs of His disciples. Asking God for what we need is an expression of trust that He will provide.



## FIVE PRAYERS FROM SCRIPTURE

1. Prayer of confession (Psalm 51)
  2. Prayer of thanksgiving (Psalm 100)
  3. Prayer of communion (Psalm 139)
  4. Prayer of intercession (John 17)
  5. Prayer of petition (Colossians 1:9–14)
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### **PRAYERFUL ATTITUDES OF THE HEART**

1. Humility (2 Chronicles 7:14)
  2. Devotion (Jeremiah 29:13)
  3. Faith (Matthew 21:22)
  4. Righteousness (James 5:16)
  5. Obedience (1 John 3:22)
  6. Submission (1 John 5:14–15)
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### **Short Prayers from Bible Verses**

#### **From Psalms**

- “But you, Lord, are a shield around me, my glory, the One who lifts my head high.” (Psalm 3:3)
- Lord, you are my Shepherd. I shall not be in want. You guide me in paths of righteousness for Your sake, not mine. “Even though I walk through the valley of death, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and staff, they comfort me.” (Psalm 23:1)
- “Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.” (Psalm 25:4-5)
- Lord, You are my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? Lord, you are the stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid? (Psalm 27:1)
- Lord, You are my strength and my shield. My heart trusts in You, and You help me. Help my heart leap for joy, so that I may praise You. (Psalm 28:7)

#### **From the New Testament**

- “I do believe, help me overcome my unbelief!” (Mark 9:24)
  - “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:13)
  - “Pray without ceasing.” 1 Thessalonians 5:17
  - Dear Lord, I am your servant. May everything that you call to my life become true according to Your word. (Luke 1:38)
  - “O God, Be merciful to me, a sinner.” (Luke 18:13)
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**[10 Simple Prayers the Apostle Paul prayed over others](#)** – Andrew Hess

### **Paul thanked God for others...**

- "First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you..." (**Romans 1:8-10**)
- "I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus..." (**1 Corinthians 1:4**)
- "I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers..." (**Ephesians 1:16**)
- "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy..." (**Philippians 1:3-4**)
- "We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you..." (**Colossians 1:3**)
- "We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers..." (**1 Thessalonians 1:2-3a**)
- We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right..." (**2 Thessalonians 1:3**)
- "I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day." (**2 Timothy 1:3**)
- "I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers..." (**Philemon 1:4**)

### **Paul prayed for their wisdom and knowledge...**

- that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him..." (Ephesians 1:17)
- "And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding..." (Colossians 1:9)

### **Paul prayed they would be full of hope...**

- "May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." (**Romans 15:5-6**)
- "Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all." (**2 Thessalonians 3:16**)



### **[The Early History of Communication](#)**

Humans have communicated with one another in some shape or form ever since time immemorial. But to understand the history of communication, all we have to go by are written records that date as far back as ancient Mesopotamia. And while every sentence starts with a letter, back then people began with a picture.



## The History of Maritime Communication and More

- **Prehistoric Era:** Fires, Beacons, Smoke Signals, Communication Drums, Horns
  - **6th Century B.C.:** Mail
  - **5th Century B.C.:** Pigeon Post
  - **15th Century A.D.:** Flags Semaphore
  - **1436:** Gutenberg's printing press.
  - **1672:** First Experimental Acoustic (Mechanical) Telephone
  - **1867:** Signal Lamps
  - **1838:** The Electrical Telegraph
  - **1876:** Telephone
  - **1896:** Radio
  - **1927:** Television
  - **1930:** First Experimental Videophones AT&T
  - **1946:** Limited-Capacity Mobile Telephone Service for Automobiles
  - **1969:** Computer Networking
  - **1973:** First Modern-Era Mobile (Cellular) Phone
  - **1982:** SMTP Email
  - **1983:** Internet
  - **1998:** Mobile Satellite Hand-Held Phones
  - **2003:** VoIP Internet Telephony
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- **Prehistoric Era: Fires, Beacons, Smoke Signals, Communication Drums, Horns:** Prehistoric communication was very limited. Smoke signals were likely the first form of visual communication, first used along the Great Wall of China. The Greek historian Polybius created a smoke signal system that represented each of the letters of the alphabet to make for more effective communication over a great distance. The messages had to be simple and widely understood in order to be properly conveyed, which limited the amount of communication that could take place.
  - **6th Century B.C.: Mail:** Under the rule of Persia's Cyrus the Great, the first mail system was developed. Cyrus could not communicate with everyone in his very large empire, so a system was developed where messengers would travel on horseback to predetermined stops, where they would get on another horse or pass off their messages to the next person to relay the message to its destination. Elsewhere, similar early mail systems were implemented.
    - [Early History of Postal Systems](#)
  - **5th Century B.C.: Pigeon Post:** As their name would suggest, homing pigeons are known for their innate ability to return to their nest even if taken a long distance away. Because of this, people began to attach messages to homing pigeons as a means of communication.
    - [The hallowed history of the carrier pigeon](#)
  - **4th century B.C.: Hydraulic Semaphore:** In ancient Greece, a form of communication was invented that involved identical unconnected

containers of water on separate hills. Vertical rods were in each container. In order to communicate, someone on one hill would have to send a signal to the person on the other using a torch. Both parties would then open the spigot at the bottom of their respective container and water would be drained. When the signal sender lowered his torch, then both people would close the spigots and the water level would convey a message at a certain point on the rod.

- **490 B.C.: Heliographs (Shield Signals):** A heliograph used the sun in order to communicate. Surfaces such as mirrors and shields were used to reflect light. This was a difficult form of communication due to the fact that it was reliant on good weather and daylight. While it was possible to use heliographs in less ideal weather and even at night, it would limit the distance that communication would be possible.
  - [Heliographs](#)
- **15th Century A.D.: Maritime Flag Semaphore:** Since it was difficult to communicate between ships or between a ship and land, flag signals were created, with each position meaning a different letter or signal. To this day, flag signals are still in use.
  - [Semaphore Flag Signalling System](#)
- **1672: First Experimental Acoustic (Mechanical) Telephone:** The first experimental telephone was created by Robert Hooke. He discovered that sound could travel between earpieces using a wire or string. It functioned much like the string and soup-can telephones that kids make to communicate with a friend in the next house over.
- **1790: Semaphore Lines (Optical Telegraphs):** Much like hydraulic semaphores and flag semaphores, semaphore lines used a visual aid in order to communicate. Semaphore lines conveyed information by using movable blades or paddles on top of a tower or other structure that conveyed a message when in a fixed position.
- **1867: Signal Lamps:** Vice Admiral Philip Colomb of Britain invented communication by means of a signal lamp. Although Morse code had not been officially adopted yet, Colomb devised a series of dots and dashes that were used to communicate between ships.
  - [World War I and World War II Visual Communications](#)
- **1877: Acoustic Phonograph:** The phonograph is attributed to Thomas Edison. With this technology, sound could be recorded for later playback. It worked by creating grooves in a tinfoil sheet, which could be listened to at a later time, albeit very faintly. This led to the first record player.
  - [History of the Cylinder Phonograph](#)
- **1838: The Electrical Telegraph:** Samuel Morse and his friends made an attempt to record using a telegraph and soon discovered that communication could be achieved between two telegraphs by holding and pressing a button in a series of intervals. In order to make communication effective and worthwhile, Morse developed his own code, known today as Morse code.
  - [History of the Electric Telegraph](#)
- **1858: First Transatlantic Telegraph Cable:** At this point, those living in the United States were able to communicate with others within their own



country, assuming both parties had access to a telegraph, and the same was true of those living in England. However, until 1858, no one was able to communicate with those outside of their country by telegraph. Cyrus Field laid the first transatlantic telegraph cable and was able to connect the two countries for international telegraph communication.

- [First Transatlantic Telegraph Cable Completed](#)
- **1876: Telephone:**As telegraph communication began to grow, technological advances led to a need for more effective telecommunication. A goal had by many at the time was to be able to send multiple messages using a single telegraph wire. While trying to achieve this goal, the telephone was invented in 1876.
  - [The Bell Telephone: Patent Nonsense?](#)
- **1880: Telephony via Light-Beam Photophone:**Alexander Graham Bell, widely credited with inventing the telephone, also invented light-beam photophones. Using the money he had earned from the invention of the telephone, he went to work on making improvements on it and discovered a way to transmit sound using beams of light instead of wires.
  - [Alexander Graham Bell](#)
- **1893: Wireless Telegraphy:** Wireless telegraphy, also known as radiotelegraphy, was the first step into the world of radio communication. The first wireless telegraph was invented by Nikola Tesla, and instead of using wires to communicate, it worked via electromagnetic waves that were transmitted between telegraphs.
- **1896: Radio:**The first radio signals were transmitted in 1896 by Guglielmo Marconi, though the sounds only traveled about a mile. Still, the possibility of transmitting radio waves held so much potential. About two years later, the first radio broadcast was made by Marconi by broadcasting the results of a sporting event to the office of a local newspaper.
  - [Marconi Demos Radio](#)
- **1914: First North American Transcontinental Telephone Calling:**Although symbolically, Alexander Graham Bell calling his San Francisco-based assistant from New York is recorded as the first North American transcontinental phone call for the history books, it was actually tested about six months earlier, in the summer of 1914.
  - [First Transcontinental Telephone Call](#)
- **1927: Television:**Among all of the advances in transmitting sound, 21-year-old Philo Farnsworth wanted to create a system that could capture moving images and transmit them to other devices. The first image transmitted by means of the television was a single line.
  - [In 1927, Newspapers Introduced Television](#)
- **1927: First Commercial Radio-Telephone Service, U.K.-U.S.:**In January of 1927, a little less than a year after the first transatlantic telephone call was made, it was implemented for commercial use. There were some issues along the way, such as fading and interference, not to mention the very high cost.
  - [First Transatlantic Telephone Service](#)



- **1930: First Experimental Videophones:**With great success in transmitting audio and video, in 1930, AT&T combined them by using the early technology of the television and proven methods of transmitting audio.
  - [History of Video Calls](#)
- **1934: First Commercial Radio-Telephone Service, U.S.-Japan:**Now that communication across the Atlantic Ocean had become more commonplace, it was time to communicate over the Pacific Ocean. Because of the great distance, some of the problems that had come up with the first transatlantic telephone calls repeated themselves, namely radio interference and high cost.
- **1936: World's First Public Videophone Network:**The first public videophone network was set up at a trade fair in Nazi Germany. Needless to say, its use was limited to people of Aryan descent.
  - [The World's First Videophone Service](#)
- **1946: Limited-Capacity Mobile Telephone Service for Automobiles:**The first call from a car was made in the summer of 1946. Since these bulky phones were expensive to install and most people deemed them to be unnecessary, not a lot of people had them.
  - [The World's First "Carphone"](#)
- **1956: Transatlantic Telephone Cable:**To reduce the cost of transatlantic phone calls, a 36-circuit wire was installed stretching from Newfoundland to Scotland.
  - [TAT-1](#)
- **1962: Commercial Telecommunications Satellite:**In 1962, the Commercial Telecommunications Satellite Act was passed, allowing satellites to be sent into space to aid in telecommunications worldwide.
  - [Originating Communications Satellite Systems: The Interactions of Technological Change, Domestic Politics, and Foreign Policy](#)
- **1964: Fiber-Optic Telecommunications:**Fiber-optic telecommunications brought back Bell's idea of using light waves to assist in telecommunications. Fiber-optic communications were better for communication over long distances due to less loss in signal strength compared to metal wires.
  - [Fiber-Optic Communications](#)
- **1965: First North American Public Videophone Network:**The videophone had been in development for decades by the time it was finally released to the public in North America. Despite all of the time, research, and effort that went into its development, it never found a market among the general public.
- **1969: Computer Networking:**The Advanced Research Projects Agency Network, or ARPANET, was one of the first foundations of the Internet. The first successful message was transmitted in October of 1969, which was simply the word "login." By December of 1969, four connections were made on the ARPANET.
  - [ARPANET](#)
- **1973: First Modern-Era Mobile (Cellular) Phone:**The first cell phone call took place between Martin Cooper and his rival, Joel Engel, who worked at AT&T. Cooper simply told Engel that he was calling from a real cell phone.

Although the first cell phone was a huge deal, it wasn't ready for the general public just yet: It was unreasonably big for daily use, and it took 10 hours to recharge after only half an hour of use.

- [John Mitchell, Martin Cooper, and the Cell Phone](#)
- **1979: INMARSAT Ship-to-Shore Satellite Communications:** Since satellite use had been made permissible in 1962, it allowed for safe ship-to-shore communication for seamen and ship passengers who happened to need to communicate with someone on land.
- **1981: First Mobile (Cellular) Phone Network:** The first cell phone network was launched in 1979 in Tokyo, Japan, and by 1981, it had expanded throughout the country. Meanwhile, communication improved in Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden by means of the Nordic Mobile Telephone system.
  - [The Origin and Spread of Mobile Phones](#)
- **1982: SMTP Email:** As more computers were being connected by means of ARPANET, interest increased in finding ways to communicate with one another. Simple Mail Transfer Protocol, or SMTP, email was first implemented in 1982 by Jon Postel.
  - [History of SMTP](#)
- **1983: Internet:** The Internet officially came into existence on Jan. 1, 1983. While ARPANET had made it possible to transmit data between multiple [computers](#) on the same network, switching from its previous network protocols to Internet Protocol (IP) allowed for researchers to assemble a "network of networks" to compile what we now know as today's Internet.
  - [A Brief History of the Internet](#)
- **1998: Mobile Satellite Hand-Held Phones:** A company called Iridium launches a satellite phone network, allowing people all over the world to make phone calls from anywhere, whether or not a working cellular network is present there. While this technology is still useful in far-flung locations or during disasters when cell networks don't work, by the time Iridium launched its product, cell phones were widely available and much cheaper, and sales could not make up for the massive investment they had made to get their system up and running.
  - [The Rise and Fall of Iridium](#)
- **2003: VoIP Internet Telephony:** Voice over Internet Protocol, or VoIP, is a relatively recent technology that has made calling over long distances affordable for almost everyone in the world.
  - [VoIP](#)

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## LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION

WEEK 5 - SERMON DATE 5/25/2025

7 Dimensions of Discipleship | Prayer, Connecting with God

### QUICK REVIEW

Thinking about this week's teaching, was there anything that caught your attention, challenged you, or made you think differently about prayer?

## **YOUR STORY**

**Q:** What's your favorite way to communicate with friends-text, call, memes, or voice notes? Why?

**Q:** What's the funniest or strangest place you've ever tried to pray or talk to God?

## **DIGGING DEEPER**

**Q:** What was the first prayer you remember learning or hearing? Who taught it to you?

**Q:** What kind of 'distractions' most often get in the way of your prayer life?

**Q:** Why do you think God wants us to pray if He already knows everything?

## **Read Aloud Matthew 6:9-13**

**Q:** Even though it's called the "Lord's Prayer," what part of it **jumps** out at you?

**Q:** You see the themes and may have heard sermons or spoken on it, but why do you think Jesus gave the disciples this template of prayer?

**Q:** Do you use any templates of prayer; the F.O.C.U.S. or 15-minute prayer or Ignatian Examen.

## **RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD**

### **BE ONE**

**Q:** What would it look like for prayer to be more central in your daily routine?

### **MAKE ONE**

**Q:** Who is someone you can pray with or for this week-and will you do it?