

MISS A SUNDAY? IT'S ON THE APP!

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PRAY

PHILIPPIANS 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving *let your requests be made known to God.*

1. It is easier to _____ than to _____.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer "To 'learn to pray' sounds contradictory to us. Either the heart is so overflowing that it begins to pray by itself, we say, or it will never learn to pray. But this is a dangerous error, to imagine that it is natural for the heart to pray. We then confuse wishing, hoping, sighing, lamenting, rejoicing – all of which the heart can certainly do on its own – with praying. But in doing so we confuse earth and heaven."

2. If you want God to move in & around & through your life, you have to actually _____.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving *let your requests be made known to God.*

3. Incense is a picture of our _____ rising to God.

Revelation 5:8 "And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the lamb, each holding a harp and **golden bowls of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.**"

4. _____ is often a necessary part of praying.

Matthew 6:10 *Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*

2 Peter 3:8-9 *But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. [9] The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.*

5. To pray well means to cultivate _____ & _____.

Romans 5:3-5 [3] *Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, [4] and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, [5] and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*

6. Prayer is as much about being _____ into the likeness of Christ as it is about getting things from God.

Revelation 8:2-5 [2] *Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. [3] And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, [4] and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel. [5] Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.*

DIGGING DEEPER

1. How often do you find yourself "wishing" for something, but not "praying" for it? What's the difference?
2. Be honest about the discipline of prayer in your life. What are some highlights? What are areas in need of improvement?
3. Is prayer "hard work" for you? Why or why not?
4. Have you ever had God ask you to wait? Tell the story
5. Have you learned anything in your time of waiting?
6. Re-read Romans 5:3-5 as a group. Discuss.
7. How is prayer an act of transformation for you?
8. Re-read Revelation 8:2-5. What does this image show you?