

PRAY FIRST Part 2 HANDOUT

10.25.26

Once I come to God, what do I do when I don't know what to say?

1. THE SPIRIT REMINDS US THAT WE BELONG TO GOD

Romans 8:14–17 ¹⁴For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. ¹⁷Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Prayer begins with knowing Whose you are. Prayer flows out of a relationship.

KEY THOUGHT #1 We don't pray as spiritual outsiders trying to get God's attention. **We pray as adopted children who already have God's attention.**

The gospel doesn't merely change where you will spend eternity. The gospel changes your relationship with God **right now**.

2. THE SPIRIT HELPS US IN OUR WEAKNESS

Romans 8:18–25 ¹⁸I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

We live between what Christ has accomplished and what Christ will ultimately complete.

ROMANS 8:26 ²⁶In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

- Prayer isn't a demonstration of how spiritually strong we are.
- **Prayer is an admission that we aren't.**

3. THE SPIRIT HELPS US WHEN WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO PRAY

There are moments when even mature Christians don't know what to pray.

- He says: **The Spirit helps.**

KEY THOUGHT #2 The Holy Spirit comes alongside us in our weakness and helps carry what we cannot carry alone.

4. THE SPIRIT PRAYS ACCORDING TO GOD'S WILL

And Romans 8:26 says that your inability to find the words does not mean you are alone. **God understands what you cannot express.**

ROMANS 8:27 ²⁷And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

The Holy Spirit takes our imperfect prayers and aligns them with the perfect will of God.

Your confidence isn't in your prayer. **Your confidence is in God.**

5. PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT MEANS DEPENDING ON THE SPIRIT

To pray in the Spirit is to pray in dependence upon the Spirit.

KEY THOUGHT #3 Prayer is where we stop saying, **"I've got this,"** and start saying, **"God, I need You."**

WHAT DO I DO WHEN I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO PRAY?

1. Start with who God is.
2. Be honest about your weakness.
3. Ask for what you think you need.
4. Surrender the outcome.

ROMANS 8:28 ²⁸And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

KEY THOUGHT #4 **We can trust God's will because we trust God's character.**

LIFE POINT: Prayer isn't about finding the right words; it's about depending on the right Helper.