



Series: Lord, Teach Us to Pray (01)

Title: The Essentials of Prayer

Scripture: 1 John 3

2025 Summer Scripture: Romans Road (ESV) 1:20; 3:23; 6:23; 5:8; 10:9-10; 8:37-39

What's the first way we love in deed and truth? (vs. 18-19)

- **PRAYER** - communicating with God. All prayer is a response to God.

Tim Keller - *Prayer is continuing a conversation that God has started through his Word and his grace, which eventually becomes a full encounter with Him.*

1. Reality - we are of the truth. Because God has saved us we walk in the newness of life. (v. 19; Romans 6:4)
2. Real problem - our heart condemns us often. (v. 20)
3. Truth that overcomes - God (who knows everything including our heart) is greater than our heart. (v. 20)
4. Truth that transforms - We have confidence before God when our hearts are controlled by the Holy Spirit. (v. 21)

What is the way we have confidence with God? (v. 22)

- We pray according to God's will!

What are the essentials of prayer?

1. Childlike obedience - We keep God's commandments. (v. 22)
2. Childlike reverence - We treat God as Father and do what pleases Him. (v. 22)
3. Childlike faith - We believe in the name of God's Son, Jesus Christ. (v. 23)
4. Childlike love - We love one another, just as Jesus Christ commanded us to. (v. 23)
5. Childlike trust - We abide with God and rely on the Holy Spirit. (v. 24)

How to Pray:

P - Praise - tell God what you love about Him. Tell God what's going on and thank Him.

R - Repent - Ask God to search your heart to see if there is any sin in you (Psalm 139:23-24) and listen. Then tell God you're sorry, thank Him for forgiveness in Christ, and ask Him for the strength to walk with Christ instead of in sin.

A - Ask - bring your needs and desires before the Lord and ask God to get what He wants. If you can to the point where all you want is what God wants, then all your life you'd have all you wanted and all your life God would have all He wants.

Y - Yield - tell God you'll do whatever He asks you to do. Ask Him to reveal this to you specifically through His Word.

Pray According to the Word

Open the Bible, start reading it, and pause at a verse and turn it into a prayer.

Praying Method overview (keep these practical things in mind):

1. Simply go through a passage line by line, talking to God about whatever comes to mind as you read the text. (Pray for prayer requests with God's Word.)
2. If you don't understand the meaning of a verse, go on to the next verse.
3. If you understand the verse, but nothing comes to mind to pray about, go on to the next verse.
4. Speak to the Lord about everything that occurs to you as you slowly read his Word. - Do this even if what comes to mind has nothing to do with the text.