

The Power of Prayer

Sermon Series: Prayer

January 18, 2015

INTRODUCTION

Pastor Tim Keller writes this in his book on *Prayer*: “The infallible test of spiritual integrity, Jesus says, is your private prayer life. Many people will pray when they are required by cultural or social expectations, or perhaps by the anxiety caused by troubling circumstances. Those with a genuinely lived relationship with God as Father, however, will inwardly want to pray and therefore will pray even though nothing on the outside is pressing them to do so. They pursue it even during times of spiritual dryness, when there is no social or experiential payoff.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. As you read that quote from Tim Keller, what thoughts come to your mind as you reflect on the importance of prayer?
2. When do you usually feel compelled or motivated to pray? Would you say that it comes naturally to you or do you find it difficult? Please share why.
3. Last week, we look at Matthew 6:5-8 in which Jesus focused on the posture of prayer. From the message today, we examined verses 9-13, which is commonly referred to as The Lord’s Prayer. Are these verses familiar to you? If so share how you were introduced to these verses?
4. In Matthew 6:9, Jesus begins by saying, “*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name...*” Why do you think Jesus began His teaching on prayer in this manner? Why would Jesus focus on this first?
5. In verse 10, Jesus goes on to say, “*Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*” What is Jesus essentially saying here in this verse? Why is this so significant, considering it came from Jesus?
6. In verses 11-13. Jesus addressed three areas in which we need to acknowledge our dependence as we come to God in prayer: His Provision (v. 11), His Pardon (v.12) and His Protection (v. 13). What area of your life do you need to acknowledge your dependence the most?

CLOSING THOUGHTS

In his book, *When I Don’t Desire God*, John Piper writes this about the need for prayer: “[Prayer is] not only the measure of our hearts, revealing what we really desire, it is also the indispensable remedy for our hearts when we do not desire God the way we ought.”

What he’s saying here is that the daily discipline of prayer, is what keeps us near to God, as we as drawing us back to Him when we feel distant in our spiritual journeys. Take time this week to seek after God in prayer. Declare His greatness, surrender your will and acknowledge your dependence on Him.

“This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.” – Matthew 6:9