

THE BIG IDEA: Prayer is our connection with the Father

The Take-Off

[VIDEO - Killer Tips to Better Prayer]

We're in our sixth week talking about the Born Again life: what it means to be born again and what it looks like to live born again.

Have you noticed that nothing we've talked about to this point seems super hard?

Getting baptized? Hanging out with other believers? Reading the Bible? Making ourselves available to the power of the Holy Spirit? None of them are that hard, but don't most of us find them at times very difficult?

It's because we have an enemy who knows the importance of each of them, and today's topic is no different.

Prayer seems to be so daunting for so many, and that's because the first strategy of an enemy at war is to disable the communication systems.

Prayer is that, so let's jump right into the first question:

1. What is prayer?

- a. At the risk of being too simplistic, prayer is talking to God.
- b. Maybe that's why we struggle with it - because it's all about relationship.
- c. **Matthew 6:9 (NIV)** / The first two words reveal this - "Our Father"
- d. **Prayer is our connection with the Father**
- e. We aren't praying to a rock, or a crystal, or a statue
- f. We are talking to our heavenly Father
- g. **Matthew 14:23; Mark 1:35; Luke 6:12 (all NIV)** / Jesus regularly connected with the Father
- h. If Jesus needed to, how much more do we??

2. How do we pray?

- a. If we know that we need to talk with God, then some wonder how exactly we should pull that off?
- b. Do we need to speak King James English or use fancy words?
- c. It's easy to think our regular words aren't good enough, like this guy.
- d. [VIDEO - God Co prayer]
- e. **Matthew 6:7 (NIV)** / we don't get points for big words and long prayers!
- f. Thankfully, Jesus didn't just say how NOT to pray; He also taught them how TO pray (**Matthew 6:9-13**)
- g. Praise Repent Ask Yield
- h. 4 clear elements to be used in prayer that are all present in the Lord's Prayer
 - **Praise** "Hallowed be your name"
 - **Repent** "Forgive us"
 - **Ask** "Give us this day"
 - **Yield** "Your kingdom come, Your will be done ... lead us not into temptation"
- i. That's what we can include, but what else do we need to know about prayer?
- j. **Luke 5:16 (NIV)** / Jesus prayed regularly and privately / He had a rhythm of prayer
- k. **Luke 18:1 (NIV)** / We're to pray persistently
- l. **1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NIV)** / We're to pray consistently
- m. Basically, prayer is like oxygen to our souls
- n. If we breathed as often as we prayed, how much longer would we survive?

The Landing

There is so much more we could talk about - intercession and supplication and spiritual warfare - but today is simply to remind all of us that born again believers pray - they talk with their Father.

It's also to encourage you that praying is probably easier than you may think.

[VIDEO - Prayer is Easier than you Think]

So let's end this morning doing what we just learned - let's talk to Jesus

In the house, we're going to close with the video of "Talking to Jesus" from Maverick City and Elevation

If you're watching online, I'd encourage you to find it and pray in your home, too.

[VIDEO - Talking to Jesus]