



Sermon Outline
August 11, 2024
Pastor Bryan Myers

Prayer

Luke 11:1-4

Five Basics:

- 1. The Bible** 2. _____
- 3. Community** 4. **Church** 5. **Worship**

** Of all the activities in which the Christ follower engages, and which are part of the Christian life, there is surely none which causes so much perplexity, and raises so many problems, as the activity we call prayer. - Martyn Lloyd-Jones*

** Why does prayer rank so high on surveys of theoretical importance and so low on surveys of actual satisfaction? – Philip Yancey*

Possible prayer paradigms:

- * When I pray God, will give me what I want IF I have enough _____.**
- * The purpose of prayer is to get life to turn out the way I _____.**

General prayer observations:

- * While prayer connects us with the all-powerful God, it does not make us all-powerful _____.**
- * Prayer is a learned behavior but also _____.**
You rarely find an atheist in a foxhole.
- * Prayer doesn't bring your needs to God's attention but does bring the need of God to _____ attention.**

Matthew 6:8 - Do not be like them (*pagans*), for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

*** Prayer isn't about you informing God. It's about God _____ you.**

Observations of Jesus' model prayer:

- * It's an _____ not intended to become a ritual.**
- * It's a simple _____ not a magical formula.**
- * It contains the _____ of prayer rather than the specifics.**

Essential Characteristics of prayer:

1. Prayer _____ by right-sizing God.

Isaiah 55:9 - As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

2. Prayer _____ (but is not limited to) making requests for our daily needs.

3. Prayer _____ receiving grace so we can extend it to others.

We're supposed to be _____ of God's grace, not just containers.

Colossians 3:13b - Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

4. Prayer _____ our need for spiritual support.

1 Peter 5:8-9 - Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

1 John 4:4 - You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

2 Corinthians 2:11 - ...in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

** Prayer reminds us that we are not in control and keeps us close to the _____ who is. - Craig Groeshel*