

The basic things you need to know about... ... prayer



Who are you?

- A person
- A friend
- Jn 15:13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other. NIV



Who is God?

- **A person**
- **A friend of ours; Nothing between us!**
 - 2 Cor 5:17 If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them.
- **God!**
 - Omniscient- All knowing
 - Omnipresent- Everywhere
 - Omnipotent- All powerful



Talking to an unseen friend.

- Natural
- Instinctive
- Casual
- Constant
- Formal- (respectful)



Talking to an unseen friend.

- Intimate
- Share Secrets- knows you inside and out
- Regular
- Gut level honest
- Time present with one another
- There for one another when needed



God hears

- Does God hear the prayer of a sinner? Yes!
- Never say “God can’t.”
- Be careful to say “God won’t.”
- What if I pray the wrong words?
- **Romans 8:34b, ESV** Christ Jesus... is at the right hand of God.... interceding for us.
- **Hebrews 7:24-25, NIV** ...but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.



God hears

- Even believers don't always know what to pray.
- Romans 8:26 In 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.
²⁷ And 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.



Develop a habit of conversation

- Do it!
- Use props if necessary
 - Empty chair at dinner table
 - Buckle seat belt next to you; though empty
- Journal
- Note cards
 - Take time to write out particularly hard prayer requests.
 - So you know what you are asking
 - You have a record when answered
- LISTEN! Turn off everything else!



4 prayers in one

- Eph 3:16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.



4 prayers in one

- Eph 3:16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,
 - Strengthened with power
 - Through the Holy Spirit
 - Inside!



4 prayers in one

- **And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,¹⁸**
 - **Roots form a foundation**
 - **Not easily knocked over**
 - **Invisible**
 - **Confidence**



4 prayers in one

- Eph 3:18 may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,
 - The older we get we become more narrow
 - Our view of God becomes small
 - This results in fear and feeling threatened
- **SEE THE BIG PICTURE**
- **SEE THE BIG GOD!**



4 prayers in one

- Eph 3:19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.
 - What are you full of?
 - Fullness means control!
 - Filled with anger? Controlled by anger.
 - Filled with bitterness? Controlled by bitterness.
- Are you filled with God?



So What?

- **Follow your instinct to pray**
- **Be natural**
- **Pray about anything**
- **Pray all the time; like talking to a friend**
- **Let God be God; and you not!**

