



What is Prayer? “The Lord’s Prayer” Series

March 15, 2020
Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this message we learn what prayer is: a personal conversation in response to the knowledge of God.

The Text: Various

1) Prayer can be defined according to Scripture as having six characteristics:

a) Prayer is an Instinct

- *Mystical: inward, wordless contemplation, immanence, our work toward God.*
- *Biblical: outward, verbal communication, transcendence, God’s work in us.*

b) Prayer is a Gift

c) Prayer is Listening

d) Prayer is an Answer

e) Prayer is a Conversation

f) Prayer is an Encounter

2) Two definitions of prayer – one short, one long.

a) Prayer is personal communication with God in response to the knowledge of God.

b) Prayer is a personal conversation that God graciously initiated by the way we are made (common grace) and through the gift of his Word (special grace) which eventually becomes a full encounter with him – a continuing conversation with the Father, through the person and work of the Son, and in the ministerial power of the Holy Spirit.

Response

What is Prayer? Prayer is the purist expression of God’s work in us and our life in God.

Small Group Questions for “What is Prayer?” (Lord’s Prayer Series)

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- 1) Starter Question: How would you answer the question: “What is prayer?”

- 2) Read Romans 1:18-20. How might this text be teaching us that every person has a “God awareness” wired into them?

- 3) How does this “God awareness” manifest itself in the religious sensibilities and prayer instincts of people who do not know Christ?

- 4) More specifically, how is “biblical prayer” different from “mystical prayer” promoted in other religions and more recent spirituality movements?

- 5) Why might it be important for Christians to define prayer not as “wordless contemplation” but as “verbal communication?”

- 6) What does this statement mean: “Prayer is not based on our striving or any technique, but rather in our knowledge of God?”

- 7) How does God’s Word and the ministry of the Spirit make prayer a real conversation?

- 8) Read Galatians 4:4-6. What does this text teach us about our intimate relationship and conversation with the Father, through the Son, and in the power of the Spirit?

- 9) According to our short definition, how is prayer “a personal communication with God in response to the knowledge of God?”

- 10) How should a proper understanding of “what prayer is” direct the prayer life of Christians and the church?

Further study this week: Key biblical texts related to this week’s topic: Romans 1 (Mon); John 3 (Tues); Hebrews 1 (Wed); Galatians 4 (Thurs); Ephesians 2 (Fri).