



LET'S GO DEEPER

TELL IT TO JESUS - PASTOR PETER SEPTEMBER 29TH 2024

Philippians 4:6,7 “Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.”

1. What is it?

We have to start by asking a really basic question. What is it? What is prayer?

Prayer is ‘talking with God.’ And God answers. And when somebody talks and somebody answers that’s called a conversation. And a conversation assumes at least two things.

Somebody Starts It

The first thing it assumes is that somebody starts it.

When it comes to prayer, who starts it?

Ephesians 2:18 “Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.”

Hebrews 10:19-22 “And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven’s Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. By His death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place. And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God’s house, let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting Him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ’s blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.”

We don’t start it, Jesus does. We don’t open the conversation, Jesus does.

Every time we pray we’re reinforcing the fact that Jesus died for us.

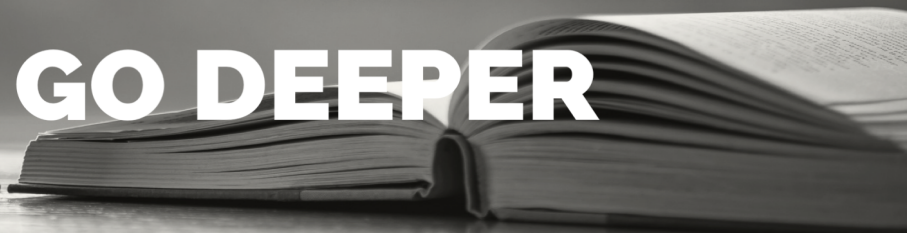
QUESTIONS:

1. What is prayer for you?

2. What is prayer according to scripture?

3. Who started the conversation and how?

4. How do you pray?



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It's a Conversation

In real relationships, both sides are part of the conversation. Both sides speak and both sides listen. God speaks. He speaks through His Word. And He speaks by His Spirit. He speaks through circumstance.

Prayer is a conversation born out of relationship.

2. How to Pray

Once we understand that prayer is a conversation we can then begin to drill down into how it works.

Pray with Faith

Hebrews 11:6 "And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to Him must believe that God exists and that He rewards those who sincerely seek Him."

We might not always think about it, but contained within the very act of praying is this element of faith.

The point of this passage carries with it a sense of certainty. We believe He will do what He says He will do.

And we shouldn't beat ourselves up if we feel like our faith falters. That happens to everybody and we're in good company.

Acts 12:12-14 "When he realized this, he went to the home of Mary, the mother of John Mark, where many were gathered for prayer. He knocked at the door in the gate, and a servant girl named Rhoda came to open it. When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed that, instead of opening the door, she ran back inside and told everyone, 'Peter is standing at the door!'"

The miracle is standing at the door.

Acts. 12:15 "'You're out of your mind!' they said. When she insisted, they decided, 'It must be his angel.'"

Even the faith of these first followers of Jesus falters so don't beat yourself up if yours does.

Pray with Persistence

QUESTIONS:

5. Why should we pray?

6. Can praying be effective without faith?

7. Isn't praying an act of faith itself?



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And we pray with persistence.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 "Never stop praying."

This means having a constant awareness of God's presence and a surrender to that presence all day long.

3. Why Pray?

What happens when we do?

Changes Us

When you and I spend time with Jesus, He changes us.

Acts 4:13 "The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus."

The leaders are thinking, 'How can these untrained, simple fishermen from Galilee be so bold and know so much?' They've been with Jesus.

When we've been with Jesus, we become more like Jesus.

Releases God's Power

And prayer releases God's power.

Acts 4:31 "After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness."

As if they aren't bold enough already. And now they've got even more.

Prayer releases God's power. The place is shaken

QUESTIONS:

8. Why should we pray with persistence?

9. Should we repeat a written prayer constantly to be effective

10. What happens when you spend time with Jesus?

11. How is praying spending time with Jesus?
