

[Daybreak Gathering](#), 1/11/24

The Power of Prayer

[The Power of Prayer](#), Pastor Brett Meador

“Jesus both often modeled and frequently talked about the importance of prayer – including a lengthy discourse in Luke 11:1-13. As we see Jesus give His disciples a model for prayer, tell interesting analogies about asking, and see where the power behind prayer comes from, we are challenged to examine our prayer lives and become those who pray as Jesus did.”

Note: You will likely not be able to cover all the questions below in our small groups, but I have included them for your time of personal study. I believe this topic and teaching may be transformative for some. I ask that you mark notable questions and plan to cover them during your discussion time.

Personal note: I am from a Baptist background (not the chosen frozen) and have no history with churches who practice the gift of tongues. I know there are differing viewpoints on the gifts of the Spirit, but the overarching teaching of this video is the power of prayer. While Brett discusses this at the end, let's not get sidetracked.

Questions

The priority of prayer

- 1) Jesus, Immanuel, God with Us, was seen praying all throughout the Gospels. He saw fit to get away from the crowds and pray. What does that tell us of the priority of prayer?
- 2) One disciple asked Jesus, “Teach us to pray,” not teach us how to pray. What is the difference?
- 3) Most people get hung up on how to pray. Pastor Brett simplified prayer by saying, “Talk to God. The end.” How does that compare with how you were taught to pray?
- 4) In your history of prayer, what has been your bigger hindrance, struggling with how to pray or just making the commitment to do it?
- 5) Some, maybe even you, underutilize the tool of prayer, of talking to the God of the universe. Have any of the following reasons people don't pray ever described you?

Unbelief

- I don't think it's going to work.
- I don't believe He's listening to me.
- I don't believe I really matter to Him.
- I don't think He cares about the details of my life.

Guilt

- I fear He's disappointed in me.
 - I'm not worthy to talk to Him.
 - I feel guilty about personal sin I'm struggling with.
 - I haven't prayed enough, so I feel guilty when I finally do.
- 6) Even though there are over eight billion people on the planet, God is not "spread thin" and has time to listen to little ol' you. When you seek the Lord, He gives you 100% of His attention 100% of the time. How might this truth change the way you see prayer?
 - 7) Some pray in King James English. Have you ever felt you needed to model those kinds of prayers rather than speaking from your modern-day English heart?
 - 8) It's perfectly understandable, and even okay, if you don't feel comfortable praying aloud in a group. How can Matthew 6:5-6 help us not feel less-than when it comes to this fear that so many experience?

Pastor Brett: "Don't make too big of a thing out of prayer. Sometimes I think we make prayer so big that we aren't very successful at doing it at all."

Pattern of prayer

- 1) Should we only pray the Lord's Prayer? How does Matthew 6:7 speak to this?
- 2) There are dangers for denominations who repeatedly pray this singular prayer. Pastor Brett mentioned how people can begin to go through the motions with this becoming a dutiful and heartless prayer, even so far as using His Name in vain. Have you ever experienced or witnessed this?

Persistence in prayer

- 1) Why do you think God wants us to be persistent in our prayers? How do the parables in Luke 18 and Matthew 7 encourage us to be persistent?
- 2) Some may teach that if you pray strong enough or long enough, you will ensure God will answer in the way you want. Have you encountered such teaching?
- 3) Do you find you are persistent in your prayers, or do you give up when you don't get an answer?
- 4) Through our persistence in prayer, it's our heart that is changed. What are some ways God has aligned your heart with His as you have persevered in prayer?

Promises for prayer

- 1) As God told Jeremiah and Paul to stop praying specific prayers, has the Lord ever told you to stop asking Him for something?
- 2) Any prayer that's powerful is going to be linked to the power of the Holy Spirit. Read Luke 11:13. Based on this Scripture, do you ever pray for a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit?

Brett's assignment

1. Pray for someone you don't like at least once a day. Who is your greatest enemy? God will change your heart and give you compassion for the people you don't like.
2. Find 30 minutes to pray. If you don't know what to pray, pray through Luke 11:2-4, the Lord's Prayer. Just talk to God in a real way about each part.

Examples:

- Hallowed means holy. Spend time acknowledging God's holiness.
- Your kingdom come: Direct your prayers toward His glorious second coming.
- Give us each day our daily bread: Recognize your need for His provision and thank Him for the ways He gives you what you need.

And so on...

3. Practice 1 Thessalonians 5: "Pray without ceasing," saying little prayers all day long.