



“Cultivate”

FEB. 23RD , 2022

6:30PM - 7:30PM

Prayer Opening the conversation...

- ❖ Tell me about a time when you first encountered prayer?
- ❖ Who taught you to pray?
- ❖ What is your definition of prayer?

Matthew 6:5-13

⁵ “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

⁷ And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Matthew 6:5-13

This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
¹⁰ your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it in heaven. ¹¹ Give us today our
daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³ And
lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.

Historical Context

- Jesus on the mountainside near Capernaum where he preached the Sermon on the Mount. (Beatitudes, anger, lust, loving your enemies, giving to the needy and in our text prayer).
- Teaching the disciples and the large crowd that gathered at the base of the mountain.
- Teaching = Christian character and spiritual practices.
- Beginning of his ministry

Matthew 6:5-13

Posture of prayer

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Posture of prayer...

Private Prayers

- It doesn't draw attention to yourself. (*Some people, especially religious leaders, wanted to be seen as "holy" and public prayer was a way to get attention.*)
- *Act of humility*
- *Develop an intimate personal relationship with God.*
- *The focus is on God.*
- *Speak from the heart.*

Caution public displays of prayer for attention

- Drawing attention to yourself. (self-righteousness)
- A tool to only get what you want.
- Babbling to show off and bring attention to yourself. Not authentic.

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Our Father in heaven hallowed be your name...

- ❑ Focus on God as parent (a person that cares for you)
- ❑ The character of God. (hallowed (holy) be your name)
- ❑ What are some words you would use to describe God?

Helpful, Kind, Patient

Why are these aspects important at the beginning of the prayer?

...your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

- ❑ Kingdom= reign in Greek- To exercise power or authority over a particular region (Psalm 24- the earth is the Lord's...)
- ❑ Dominion, power and authority over our lives.
- ❑ God's will = God's purposes for our lives. The ability to rest in God's will.

What benefits do we have under God's reign and will?

...give us today our daily bread.

- Ask for daily needs.
- God's word sustains us in the good and bad days.

What does daily bread mean to you?

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

- Ask and give forgiveness. (Prayer of confession)
- Model forgiveness toward your neighbor

Why is this an important aspect of prayer?

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.

- Help us see clearly and understand temptations (deception) and evil that try to pull us away from God.
- Help us to know and walk in the truth.
- “We will not be tempted beyond what we can bear.” (1 Cor. 10:13)

Why is this an important aspect of prayer?

Posture of Prayer

Adoration – *God you are great and greatly to be praised”*

Confession– *Please forgive me for any sins I have committed by thought word of deed.*

Thanksgiving– *Thank you for loving me.*

Supplication– *Please heal my heart.*

Intercession – *I pray for my friend who is ill.*

Live from the word

What are ways or forms of prayer that you enjoy?

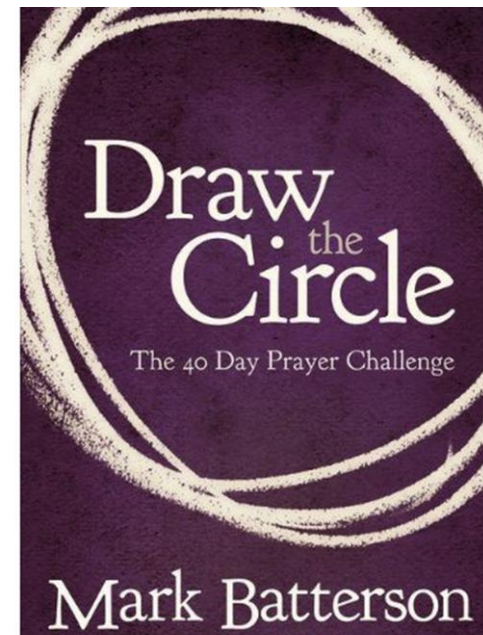
When should we pray? How often?

What are benefits of prayer?

A YEAR
to draw near

Draw near to God and he will come near to you. James 4:8

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Beginning next Wednesday

- Intention
- Read daily
- Journal
- Follow Prayer Prompts
- Document the result of your prayer and fasting.