

The Message Gathering

Productive Prayer Part 1: Purposeful Prayer

Why Do We Struggle With Prayer?

We don't know the process or the purpose of what prayer is really all about.

Is Our Prayer. . .

- Purposeful,
- Personal,
- Passionate,
- And Powerful?

Prayer Defined: A Solemn Request For Help Or Expression Of Thanks Addressed To God Or An Object Of Worship.

Syd's Definition Of Prayer: Prayer Is The Discipline of Communicating With The Living God.

DISCIPLINE:

Discipline Defined: The Practice Of Training People To Obey Rules Or A Code Of Behavior, **Using Punishment To Correct Disobedience.**

1 John 4:18 (NIV)

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

Godly Discipline Defined: The Practice Of Obedience So That We May Become Both Blessed And A Blessing.

Jesus and Prayer

Mark 1:35 (NIV)

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

Luke 6:12 (NIV)

One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God.

Matthew 14:23 (NIV)

After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,

Jesus Was Practiced . . .

Hebrews 5:7 (NIV)

During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

**Make Sure You Understand The Difference Between
Religious Prayer And Disciplined Prayer!**

Four Purposes Of Prayer:

1. Connection,
2. Direction,
3. Correction,
4. Protection

Luke 11:1 (NIV)

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray . . ."

Today's Truth Statement:

**Being Practiced In Prayer Empowers The Believer To Become More
Purposed and Productive In Their Everyday Christian Life**

Questions:

- Share Your Thought As A Group About Why We Have Made Prayer A Religious Activity Instead Of A Relational Experience.
- Why Does Viewing Prayer As A Religious Activity Kill The Personal Connection That God Desires?
- Have Each Person Share The Differences They See Between Worldly and Godly Discipline.

- In The Disciplines We See In Jesus' Prayer Life Which Do You Personally Associate With Most?
- Share A Time When You Listened During Prayer And God Gave You Direction.
- Of The Four Purposes Of Prayer: Connection, Direction, Correction, and Protection, Which One Are You Most Thankful For?