

SERMON NOTES

May 25 & 26, 2024

Why Does It Matter?: Prayer

1. Two main components to improve our conscious contact with God are _____ and _____.
 - a. Prayer is the act of coming to God with our, _____, _____, _____
AND _____ for God's response. **2 Samuel 22**
 - b. Meditation is preparing our _____ to hear God's _____ for our lives. **Psalm 1**
2. Prayer matters because prayer is _____; as we are filled with _____
_____ for our lives we become the people _____!
3. A prayer is so much more _____ than a _____.
4. • _____ to building a solid prayer life include those things that move prayer
from one of our top daily priorities down our list.
5. • _____ that come from being in prayer and meditation with God, strengthen
prayer as a priority.

TOP FIVE OBSTACLES TO DAILY PRAYER

1. Obstacle - _____
 - 1a. Blessing - _____ **2 Corinthians 7:14**
2. Obstacle - Thinking God does not _____ us.
 - 2a. Blessing - God _____ all of us and wants us to _____ to Him in prayer! **Isaiah 30:18**
3. Obstacle - I am not _____ of God's time and attention.
 - 3a. Blessing - Discovering _____ is found in who _____ says I am. **Psalm 139:13-14**
4. Obstacle - The _____ in that we were raised.
 - 4a. Blessing - God will always be for _____ and _____ us! **Joshua 1:9**
5. Obstacle - Stuck on the _____ to use, how to _____ God, and if our prayers are
good enough.
 - 5a. Blessing - God loves _____ of our prayers, no matter what words we use to say them. **Proverbs 15:8**

GOD can hear US. ARE WE _____ God?

Step #11. found in the Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book

*"Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we
understood God, praying only for knowledge of God's will for us and the power to carry that out."*

Life Steps

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Monday

John 15:13

Reflect: Today is a day set aside to honor and remember those who have died in war. The number rises when including those who died by suicide either on active duty or following. How can you pray for our soldiers in need today? On this day, take a moment to remember those who gave their lives for the freedoms we enjoy.

Prayer: God of Mercy, pour your love upon all who laid down their lives for us to remain free. And comfort their families, heal as only you can. In Jesus' powerful name, Amen

Tuesday

Matthew 6:5

Reflect: How and where do you pray? How does your place keep you from being like the hypocrites?

Prayer: Father God, humble us we pray. Lead us to the place to lift our eyes to you, that you might speak a word to us and give us your path, your will to carry on. In Jesus' Name, Amen

Wednesday

Matthew 6:6

Reflect: What is the reward that this scripture refers to? Is it referring to something other than answered prayers?

Prayer: Gracious God, thank you for the gift of conversation with you in this action called prayer. Lead me to the quiet place where I can hear your whisper and experience your presence. Help me to become more aware of your powerful love and beauty in my life. In the name of Jesus, Amen

Thursday

Matthew 6:7

Reflect: God is not asking for fancy words or lengthy prayers. God desires prayers that are sincere, asking for help out of our vulnerability and with humility. How do you enter into prayer, and do your prayers change, or are you growing in prayer? Repetition can be good as well, can you think of a time when you are growing through repetition?

Prayer: LORD, I humbly approach you in prayer. Accept my prayer as a sincere praise of your Glory, Love, and Grace. Forgive me when I fail to put you first. In Jesus' name, Amen

Friday

Psalms 1:2-3

Reflect: Have you ever journaled your prayers? Or do you keep a list? Doing so can help in being able to look back and see how God is answering your prayers.

Prayer: God, thank you for your Word, that fills my soul and brings me to hear your voice. May I always be listening and seeking your face in the crowd, in my family, in my friends, in the stranger on the street corner. Fill me with your vision, not my own. In the powerful name of our Savior, Jesus Amen

Saturday

2 Chronicles 7:14

Reflect: How many times have you recalled this scripture this year? Are you still praying at 7:14 each day? If you have been participating in our collective prayer, what has been the greatest blessing? If you haven't, please join us today. We will be praying for you at 7:14.

Prayer: Dear God, fill us with your word, help us to bind it in our hearts and in our minds so that we may constantly turn to you in times of hardships and joy. In Jesus' name, Amen

Sunday

Romans 12:10-13

Reflect: How can you best share God's love with others today? How will people know when they pass you, that you are God's child? Will you smile? Will you say hello? Will you offer a drink to someone who is thirsty?

Prayer: Thank you, God, for opportunities on this day to share your love with one more. In the mighty name of Jesus, my Savior, Amen