



Message Reflections

October 1, 2023

“The first thing in prayer is to get God. If you get Him, everything else follows. Allow God to get at you, to invade you, to take possession of you. He then pours His very prayers through you. They are His prayers—God-inspired, and hence, God answered.” - Missionary E. Stanley Jones

Read Matthew 6:9-13, Psalm 34:4-8, and Jeremiah 33:3.

Prayer is a relationship, not an obligation. When Jesus taught His disciples to pray, He did not choose the words, “Lord,” or “Almighty God,” to begin His prayer. Instead, Jesus prayed, “Our Father,” which demonstrates how personal and intimate of a relationship we can have with our God as a Heavenly Father.

Assess your prayer life by answering the following questions:

- How is your prayer time both personal and authentic?
- How would you describe your prayers?
 - Empty words
 - A hurried visit
 - A list of requests
 - An intimate, two-way conversation
- How much time do you spend in genuine, heartfelt prayer each day?
 - At Meals
 - 15 minutes
 - 5 minutes
 - 30 minutes
 - 10 minutes
 - ___ minutes
- How do you sense God's presence and voice as you pray? How do you listen when you pray?

The whole story of the Bible is about God longing to have a personal friendship with human beings. We develop our friendship with God by spending time in prayer and in His Word, and by resting in His abiding love.

Pray: Spend 2 minutes in silence, and then talk to God about what is really going on in your life. Allow Him to search your heart, and then acknowledge your greatest needs to Him.