

Knowing God

Lesson Six

Prayer

Take a minute to write down what you think prayer is. How do we pray?

Is prayer truly vital to the Christian faith?

Why should we pray?

“One of the main reasons for a lack of Godliness is prayerlessness” (Whitney)

We are called to become more like Christ every day (to be sanctified), in order to become like Christ we **MUST** pray!

Read Luke 5:16.

If Jesus often withdrew into solitude to pray, how much more do we need prayer!?

Not only was Jesus an example to us in living a life dedicated to prayer, he also emphasized prayer to his disciples.

In Luke 18:1, Jesus tells the disciples as parable in order to illustrate that “they should always pray”.

We are all devoted to something (school, relationships, sports, video games, etc).
Read Colossians 4:2. What does Colossians say we are to be devoted to?

According to Colossians, prayer must be a priority in our lives! Not just something we do when we wake up or before meals. Not that praying before meals or when we wake is bad. But prayer is supposed to be something that permeates our lives.

Read Thessalonians 5:17.

What does it look like to “pray continually”?

If scripture is so direct with commands to pray, why don't we pray more often?

Do you truly believe that God hears your prayers? Do you believe He will answer your prayers?

Read John 9:31 and Psalm 65:2.

God clearly hears the prayers of his followers! Likewise, Luke 11:9-13.

Not only does God hear our prayers, He responds!

Another reason we do not pray is that we believe the lie that life is manageable. Read John 15:5.

Life is never manageable! We do not realize how much we need prayer!

Since scripture commands us to pray, Jesus relied on prayer, God hears and answers our prayers, and scripture tells us we need prayer, then how are we to pray?

How can we learn to pray? What are ways we can pray?

We must rely on God to teach us to pray, as the disciples did in Luke 11:1. We cannot learn to pray through our own effort.

As simple as it sounds, we can learn to pray by relying on God when we pray. More simply put, God will guide us when we pray, all we have to do is pray!

Do you think we can pray by meditating on scripture?

Meditating, and resting in God's word leads to prayer, as it moves us to think about God, His character, and His perfect will.

Throughout your week, plan times to pray. Often, with our busy schedules, prayer gets pushed aside. Set aside time to be quiet before God, but also, as you go about your day, pray in between activities. I have found that praying while walking to class is a good way to make sure my mind is on Christ throughout class. Praying while driving (eyes open of course), is also a good time to pray. This has become a regular practice of mine, so much so that I actually look forward to getting in the car. These are just things that have worked for me, think about ways you can make prayer more central to your life. Remember, where there is Godliness there is prayerfulness. For further study read Matthew 6:5-15.