

Knee Deep

The purpose of prayer | Week 2

Many people pray. A lot of what we do, however, in the name of prayer is different than the Biblical way. God has something to teach us about prayer, or what the Bible calls, “calling on the name of the Lord.”

THIS WEEK

Memorize: James 5:14-15

¹⁴ Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.

September Action Step

Ask someone how you can pray for them. Pray for them regularly. Follow up in a week to see how they are doing.

DAY ONE: Beyond Requests

Ask

1. How much of your prayer life revolves around asking for things? Do you ever pray without asking God for anything? Under what circumstances?
2. What should a conversation look like between a parent and 2-year old child? 12 year old? 20 year old? 40 year old? Which is most similar to your current prayer life?

Read: James 5:7-20

DAY TWO: Conversation

Ask

1. How is prayer like a conversation? How is it different?
2. When we talk to God, he typically does not talk back in the same way another person would. How do you carry on conversation with him?

3. Communication today happens in all sorts of ways: texts, emails, letters, non-present dialogue (phone, Skype, Facetime), personal conversations, passive-aggressive gestures or unmentioned acts of love (signs) in our absence... Which does your prayer life feel like?

4. What would you like to talk face-to-face with God about?

Read: Psalm 5

DAY THREE: Absent

Ask

1. Do you tend to think of God more as present or absent? How does this effect your prayer life? To what degree is he both?
2. How can the opposite perspective round out your prayer life?

Read: Psalm 6

DAY FOUR: Dependent

Ask

1. When are times you realize your dependence on God? Does it increase or decrease your fervency for prayer?
2. Do you find your dependence on him empowering? Frightening? Disconcerting? How does it affect your prayer life?

Read: Psalm 7

DAY FIVE: God, do what you promised!

Ask

1. How often do you ask God to do *his* will? When you do, is it in specific ways? When does it come easiest? When is it difficult?
2. How do you figure out what God's will is? How do you evaluate your assumptions about his will?
3. If you pray for something and it happens (or doesn't happen), do you assume it was God's will?

Read: Psalm 8