

Passionate Prayer

Teaching Outline - Week 2 *Organic Disciples*

I. Introduction

- A. My experience praying at school/with family/at youth group growing up.
- B. Prayer for me was intimidating back then. I didn't understand why we did it, what I was supposed to say if, God forbid, someone would call on me to pray, and I didn't know if what I was doing actually did anything at all. I had so many questions and I am sure you do too.

II. Question 1 - Does God really want to hear from me?

- A. The Temple in Jerusalem
- B. **Matthew 27:51**, the curtain is torn in two.
- C. This was a divine invitation, a physical sign that the way to God Almighty - the one who resided in the most holy place, far removed from those who did not belong - was now wide open and there was no more division. God welcomes us to himself, and every human being has access to God's presence through faith in Jesus Christ. If you ever wonder whether God wants to hear from you or spend time with you, remember what he did to open the way and bring you to himself. Every time you pray, you declare with confidence that God's arms are open and you are welcome in his presence.

III. Question 2 - What am I supposed to say?

- A. We were given a guideline for prayer...not so much the "right Christian words to say" but rather, the position of our heart.
- B. **Matthew 6:9-13**
 - 1. Instead of saying "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name"...try "God, you are so good!"
 - 2. Instead of saying "Your kingdom come, your will be done"...try "You are in charge of my life. Do with it what you would like."
 - 3. Instead of saying "Give us today our daily bread"...try "I acknowledge that you have given me all that I have. I ask that you (fill in prayer request here)"

4. Instead of saying "Forgive us our debts"...try, "I am a broken human being in need of help. Please forgive me for (fill in prayer of repentance here)"
5. Instead of saying, "Lead us not into temptation"...try "I am not strong enough to choose you every day. Help me with this."

IV. Question 3 - When am I supposed to pray?

- A. 1 Thessalonians 5:17
- B. It is not possible for us to spend all of our time with the words of prayer on our lips, but it is possible for us to live all of our days in the spirit of prayer, realizing that our dependence on God for all we have and all we are, being conscious of his presence with us wherever we may be, and yielding ourselves continually to him to do his will.

V. Question 4 - Does prayer even do anything?

- A. Selfish prayers v. "May your kingdom come, let your will be done."
- B. John 14:13-14
- C. We were given a model for prayer. A guide to position our hearts. The Lord's Prayer which we reviewed earlier...Let your kingdom come, let your will be done. Even when I don't understand it. Even when I can't see it. God, you are good and you are working for my good.
- D. We pray to acknowledge that he is in control, and we are not. We pray to position ourselves in the right place to see him working and moving in beautiful ways; ways we did expect or imagine he would. We pray to be completely dependent on him for our every desire and need.

VI. Conclusion