

The 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter ~ Sunday, May 29, 2022

“Come Alive: Praying Boldly”

John 15:1-11

“Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession...Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (Hebrews 4:14 &16)

**MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT PRAYER**

- Prayer is a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Prayer is a \_\_\_\_\_.
- They only use prayer when they're \_\_\_\_\_; as a last resort; when things finally fall apart and they come to the \_\_\_\_\_ of themselves.
- Prayer is a \_\_\_\_\_.
- They try to out \_\_\_\_\_ or convince God to do something for them.
- Prayer is a \_\_\_\_\_.
- The only reason I pray is because I \_\_\_\_\_ to; it's a duty; something required of me by the \_\_\_\_\_ or the preacher. The basic motivation behind this approach is \_\_\_\_\_. This kind of prayer is all about meaningless \_\_\_\_\_. This approach makes prayer something you \_\_\_\_\_ rather than something you \_\_\_\_\_.

Prayer isn't a duty; it's a \_\_\_\_\_, whereby we're invited to come into the very presence of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Universe and to commune with Him. Prayer is the primary way that we \_\_\_\_\_ in relationship with God.

“Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and thankful heart..” (Colossians 4:2)

**4 PURPOSES FOR PRAYER**

**#1. Prayer is an act of \_\_\_\_\_.**  
It is an opportunity for us to express our devotion to God and our \_\_\_\_\_ upon Him.

One of the biggest hindrances to prayer is that we either consciously or unconsciously don't believe we \_\_\_\_\_ God. Instead we believe that we can do it \_\_\_\_\_. It's not until we come to the \_\_\_\_\_ of ourselves; when we hit a wall; or fall down and can't get up, that we realize we actually \_\_\_\_\_ God.

In order to come to God in prayer with the right kind of \_\_\_\_\_, we have to be \_\_\_\_\_.

“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.” (John 15:4-7)

- Just as a branch is 100% dependant on the vine for nourishment; we're 100% \_\_\_\_\_ on God. In fact, apart from Him we can do \_\_\_\_\_.
- Just as a branch will wither and die if it's severed from the vine, we too will wither and die if we become \_\_\_\_\_ from the Lord.
- Just as a branch will bear fruit if its \_\_\_\_\_ in the vine, we too will bear fruit in our \_\_\_\_\_, if we abide in Christ.

Whether we recognize it or not, prayer is our \_\_\_\_\_; our support system; or \_\_\_\_\_ in the storm—without it, we have no strength, no power, no spiritual air to breathe; we're helpless and \_\_\_\_\_.

**How dependant are you on God?  
Is this dependance evident in your prayer life?**

**#2. Prayer is an act of \_\_\_\_\_.**  
Communication is important in any \_\_\_\_\_; and if we don't communicate, the relationship will eventually \_\_\_\_\_.

Unless we communicate with God through prayer, we can't fully understand who \_\_\_\_\_; we can't fully understand who \_\_\_\_\_; and we can't fully understand His \_\_\_\_\_ for our lives.

“I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant doesn't know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last...” (John 15:15-16)

The reason we can come to God in prayer is because we're in \_\_\_\_\_ with Him. And Jesus describes this relationship as a \_\_\_\_\_.

“There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.” (John 15:13)

Paul tells us that we are God's \_\_\_\_\_. (Ephesians 1:3-6)

“See what great love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are.” (1 John 3:1)

“Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (Hebrews 4:16)

Sometimes we can have a hard time believing that God is really \_\_\_\_\_ in us.

“Cast all your burdens on God, because he cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:7)

**Do you know God’s great love for you?  
What evidence of this is there in your prayer life?**

**#3. Prayer is an act of \_\_\_\_\_.**  
Supplication =

“Don’t worry about anything but in everything, with your prayers and your supplications, make your requests known to God and the peace of God which passes all understanding will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Phil 4:6)

“If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you!” (John 15:7)

“Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.” (John 16:24)

“You do not have because you do not ask.” (James 4:3)

When you love someone, you’re \_\_\_\_\_ in every aspect of their lives. The same is true of God—He’s interested in our lives—even those things we think are too small or \_\_\_\_\_ to bring to Him.

God want us to ask in prayer so that our \_\_\_\_\_ may be complete.

“Which of you fathers if your son asked for a fish would you give him a snake instead? Or if he asked for an egg would you give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.” (Luke 11:11)

We can come to God and ask Him for those things we \_\_\_\_\_ to live—our daily bread—and we can come to Him with our \_\_\_\_\_—those things that we don’t necessarily need, but want.

“Delight yourself also in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.” (Psalm 37:4)

“He will fulfill the desires of those who reverence Him.” (Psalm 145:15)

These passages don’t tell us that God will give us everything we \_\_\_\_\_, but rather that when we’re delighting in Him—when we’re; reverencing Him—there’s a greater chance of our \_\_\_\_\_ being lined up with His will; and when this happens, our desires can’t be \_\_\_\_\_.

“And this is the boldness we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have obtained the requests made of him.” (John 5:14-16)

**What are you lacking right now in your life simply because you haven’t asked God?**

**What role does supplication play in your prayer life ?**

**#4 Prayer is an act of \_\_\_\_\_.**

God, in His \_\_\_\_\_, has chosen to \_\_\_\_\_ with us; to allow us to share in His plan for the world.

When we pray for other people, we’re \_\_\_\_\_ with God. We’re teaming up with God to \_\_\_\_\_ His work in the world—to see His perfect \_\_\_\_\_ done here on earth, as it is in heaven.

“Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.” (John 14:12-13)

When Jesus Christ was here on earth, He voluntarily \_\_\_\_\_ Himself by becoming human. Our prayers aren’t limited by \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.

People can reject our \_\_\_\_\_, reject our \_\_\_\_\_, reject us as a person, but they’re totally \_\_\_\_\_ against our prayers.

Like a river, God can change the course of \_\_\_\_\_ by our prayers. If we can pray, we can make the \_\_\_\_\_ possible.

Instead of trying to work it out on our own—we have the \_\_\_\_\_ of God behind us. Our part is \_\_\_\_\_, Jesus’ part is the \_\_\_\_\_!

**How do you cooperate with God through prayer?**