

Teach Us to Pray

Glenwood Community Church

Adult Equipping Center – Class 6, May 28th

Purpose: To help any disciple have a meaningful and consistent prayer life by (1) learning from Scripture, (2) hearing from seasoned disciples, and (3) *addressing common obstacles to prayer*.

Review: Last week - prayer panel / Week before: Why pray? God is sovereign (follow-up)

“Is prayer effective?” – Different Vantage Point: the person praying

- Psalm examples: 10:1, 13:1-2, 22:1-2, 38:21-22, 42:3, 44:23-26 / 40:1-3

Obstacle: Why pray? It doesn't work!

Small Group Discussion:

- What could be assumed in the objection that prayer doesn't “work”? Discuss a few options.
- Imagine that a friend approaches you and says, “God doesn't seem to be answering my prayers these days, why not?” What would a helpful response be? What questions might you ask?

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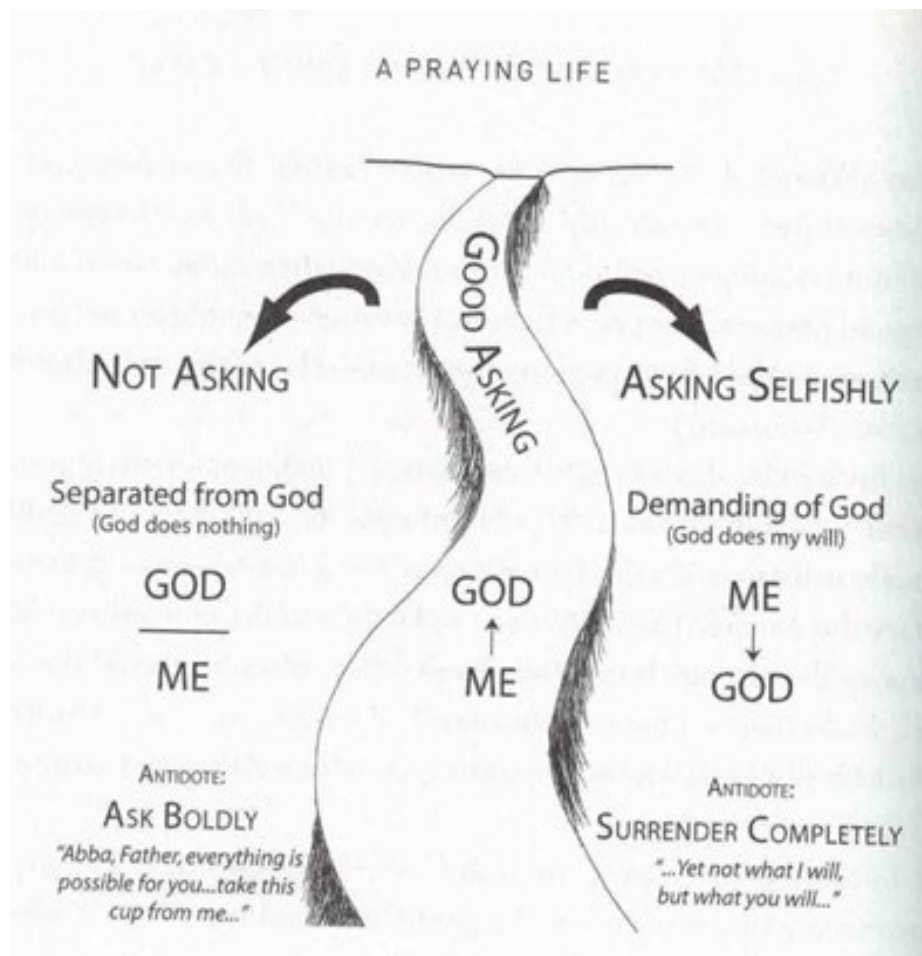
Scripture: Mt. 6:8, Ps. 69:13, Lk. 11:9-13, James 1:5, 1 Ptr. 3:12

8 Questions to ask when you are not receiving an answer:

1. *Do I know God truly through Jesus Christ? (1 Tim. 2:5, Heb. 10:19-20)*
2. *Have I spent time persisting in prayer about this? (James 4:2, Lk. 18:1)*
3. *Are my motives pure in prayer? (James 4:3-6; Visual from Paul Miller – A Praying Life, p. 116)*
4. *Do I trust God in what I'm praying about? (Dan. 3:17-18, Mt. 21:20-22, James 1:5-8)*
5. *Am I praying for something that is not the expressed will of God? (Mk. 14:36)*
6. *Am I ignoring or denying unconfessed sin in my life that grieves God? (1 Kings 9:1-9, Is. 1:12-17, Jer. 7:16-20, Ps. 66:16-19, Prov. 28:9, John 15:7, Heb. 5:7-8)*
7. *Is there relational strain with others that may be hindering my relationship with God? (Mt. 5:23-24, 6:12-15, 1 Ptr. 3:7, 4:7)*
8. *How has God been changing me through this process of waiting? (2 Cor. 1:8-11, 12:1-10)*

Conclusion: Gethsemane

Sharing: Gary Gaebel



Paul Miller – A Praying Life, p. 116

Implication Questions (Life work):

1. Are you discouraged in God's responsiveness to prayer? Why or why not? Spend a time in prayer simply focusing on His character, promises and plan.
2. How has God answered prayer in your life? Ask a fellow Christian how God has answered prayer in their life. Spend time thanking God for His responsiveness and attention.
3. Consider the things that you are losing heart to pray for. Spend time naming them and considering how Scripture could more fully shape how you pray for them.
4. How has God used your "waiting" in prayer or not granting your prayers to shape who you are?

Next Class: Seasons of Prayer / Wrap-up in Prayer – June 4th