

Prayer

Matthew 6:5-15

This is the only time Jesus teaches how to pray. There are many examples of Jesus teaching who to pray for and why we should pray for others but this is the only time Jesus teaches how to pray. It is clear Jesus is teaching us that praying is more than words it is an attitude of a personal relationship with God. This switch from viewing God as impersonal to personal was revolutionary at the time and in some way is still revolutionary today. Is your prayer life a personal conversation – one like a conversation with your best friend - or one that is based on checking off the box that you prayed today? Jesus is teaching us more than just words on what to say when we pray but teaching us the attitude of prayer – an attitude of personal, intimate, humble, authentic, open and vulnerable conversation. Is that your prayer life with Jesus/God – an authentic and vulnerable conversation that is open and honest? Or is it one that you just do because you have been taught to pray a certain way? Jesus is providing us more than just words – he is providing us the essence of the meaning of prayer – a deep intimate conversation with Jesus/God/Lord.

Where do you struggle with having a deep open authentic conversation with God? What blocks you from doing this? Your emotions such as anger, fear, shame, or guilt? Your situation such as illness, family, relationships, addiction, or finances? What keeps you from a personal authentic relationship with God?

The purpose of prayer is to have a deep open authentic vulnerable conversation with Jesus/God. Is that your prayer life? If it is, great you are getting it and continue to go deeper. When it isn't, what causes that? Is it all things you have to do? Is it your job, family obligations, money issues, or how you feel about yourself? What blocks you from talking to Jesus more often than anyone else in this world?

Prayer is our communication with God and you get to choose its quality. You get to choose its depth-ness. And whatever the communication quality is, that is a description of the type of relationship you have with God. A prayer life is a description of one's relationship with God. Are you ready for a deep vulnerable open and authentic relationship with God? You can have that. It depends on how you are searching for God. Is it in the daily devotions that are part of your schedule or in the depths of your pain, sorry, and loss? How personal are you making your prayer life with God? God want's it personal, do you?

Lord, God. Jesus – help me to build a deep personal relationship with you. One built on trust and knowing you are leading me and will never lead me. Lord, let me seek you from the depths of my soul's pain and anguish and may I find you there walking with me and loving me no matter what. Amen.

by Rev. David Piltz