

1 DNA 12 Pray First

What has God been speaking about this term? What are you doing well in? What areas do you think God wants you to grow in. Can be a high pressure and a sense of guilt and disappointment. Most of us don't pray first we try to resolve issues and prayer is our last resort. God wants us to come and pray with him. Don't want you to be guilty but believe the Holy Spirit wants to teach us.

Luke 11.1- – always good to look at Jesus as an example – we see how often Jesus prays – something in that prayer was a priority for Him. First thing in morning, middle of day, decision point and desperation. If Jesus prays then we need to pray too. We want to listen to Jesus.

1.1 1.State of prayer

- Disciples struggled to pray – they see him praying and they come to him and say teach us. Mark 1.35 see disciples they are not with Him early in the morning praying priority for Jesus but not first place where Jesus went – don't go with him. Don't have the same mindset. Disciples don't have a lot of stamina – Transfiguration – go up to pray the disciples wake up heavy with sleep. Disciples fall asleep in Gethsemane.
- If you struggle with praying you are not alone – every day for three years still struggled and misunderstanding – you are not alone. It's OK to struggle when it comes to pray.
- Epaphras always struggling on your behalf in prayer – Paul commends this guy who is always struggling – struggling is ok not praying is not .
- Jesus gives parables that says it's difficult but Jesus wants to encourage you that through persistent pray like the widow and this man in this scripture
- When you pray pray like this he doesn't tell them off or shout at them – he says

1.2 Object

- Luke 11.2 – when you pray say Father – may be obvious but we can lose our focus – it can be on pray itself as opposed to focus on who it is we are speaking to – when you pray say Father.
- When we pray we are praying to our heavenly father – he could have said Yahweh, or Lord God almighty – but he says intentionally pray Father – the fact that God is our father is the foundation of our prayers – our view of Fatherhood will impact our pray.
- This can be spoiled by our relationship with our earthly Father – Chan said he had great respect for the authority of his father, he got this but in his culture the idea of having an intimate relationship with someone in authority was not expected. But our heavenly Father is not like this – he has authority but he invites us into an intimate relationship.⁷
- Our experience of fatherhood can make us subtly expect God to be harsh or inconsistent – you need to know he is not like any of these things.
- How does Jesus describe Him – if you then our evil – How much more will the heavenly father give the Holy Spirit.
- I won't tell God what I really want he will give me the opposite to this – the last thing I ever thought I was going to do I am doing – Jesus is saying WHAT kind of father is like. A daughter asks for a doll – and gets a spider. No father would do this – nor would our heavenly father .
- He is a kind and gracious and loving father – he wants to give good gifts to us – we invite come here to discipline – how many times do we say come here you are amazing – for this is

WHISTABLE COMMUNITY CHURCH DNA

what the heavenly father does to us. When we get close to God we are going to be told off – but he wants to affirm us. He wants to be with you

1.3 Purpose

- **A Relationship**
 - Pete Gregg – not that into pray into Jesus and we talk a lot. The focus can be an activity – it's a relationship – I don't want to big on pray but big on Jesus.
 - Inviting us to enjoy what HE has always enjoyed – share in that divine communion between Father, Son and Holy spirit. Inviting us into something totally sacred – Peter partake in the divine nature – communion with perfect love – we need to understand how staggering that is. He has made a way for us who were in rebellion to be adopted into his family – we get to speak to God that is what it is to pay
 - We get to talk to the God of the universe who created all things – we get to say dad can I ask you something – He is never too busy – he says come he wants to ear what is on your heart, what you are anxious about, he wants to affirm that he wants to be with you and love on you
 - When we think of pray as an intimate relationship it removes the weight of it being a burden
- **Surrender**
 - We can start with a to do list at the
 - How often do we start our day with Gods to do list – how often do we follow Jesus's example to say your kingdom come – what do you want to achieve through me
 - Kingdom come – not I I I in our prayer – our focus is what does God want to purpose through us – these are things I have got done – but I am completely surrender to your purposes – the day is not random I want to walk in Gods plan
 - Our pray can be like an online shopping list – asking comes after surrender – something we ask for after surrender we can lay down
- **Dependence**
 - Give us each day our daily bread – we don't understand this because we don't get daily fresh bread – we can treat our prayer as supermarket bread in a freezer – in Jesus time you had to get it each bread – every day you need to come to the father – give me today's bread – not about exchange of products he wants to be intimate
 - So easy for us to fall into this freezer mentality – lack of prayer reveals an independent heart I don't need it I can deepened upon our selves
 - Watching a variety performance – spinning plates – rushing about form plate to plate – manages to keep every plate spinning – grabs each pole and each one is glued on – we can keep rushing around – God holds the plates up we can surrender them to him. Rushing about is an illusion by praying first we walk in the reality of that

WHISTABLE COMMUNITY CHURCH DNA

1.4 Hope for our prayer

- Main hope v9 – that God hears our prayers – Seek and find Knock and it will be opened – some of us find these verses difficult to swallow.
- We can think hang on I don't think this is true – experience write it off – or we say Jesus word is true I might have asked but he may say grow not no. We can trust him
- Amazing invitation and promise- not just praying into the air – not a psychological trick or method – we are praying to our heavenly father who hears us and responds to us and wants to give some things to us
- We can forget that God does answer pray – we just do it with no faith out of obedience – how different things could be if we really believe these word
- Even if we struggle God promises to give us His Holy Spirit to help us – Romans 8.26 likewise the spirit helps us in our weakness – but the spirit intercedes for us. Ever been tire, not know what to say in pray – the Holy Spirit is there to help us. Given us His Holy Spirit to help us – he is the wind in the sails of our prayers.
- Don't matter how you view your sail – patched up or huge – but if we don't have the Holy spirit it means nothing. We can have a patched up sail and bumble through the Holy Spirit can empower that.
- Our prayers are powerful – the enemy hates it – there is so much power available for us.
-