

Unpacking the Preach

Date: 23rd May 2021
Sermon Title: The Habits of a Disciple: Prayer
Bible Passage: Matthew 6: 9 - 13

Recapping the Preach

Take time to read this familiar prayer and try to use a few different translations:

- What stands out to you the most in this simple but profoundly deep prayer?
- If someone who is not a Christian asked you, 'What's the Lord's Prayer about?', how would you answer them?
- What is your HABIT of prayer?
- Do you find it easier to pray with people or alone?

Stu began by saying that prayer enables us to flourish regardless of the circumstances we find ourselves in. He gave some examples of people flourishing in spite of hard situations. He also pointed out that when we hear about 'giants of faith' it can be a little disheartening when we think of our prayer life.

- What do you think it means to 'flourish'?
- Can you think of other Bible passages that speak about flourishing and God's desire for us to flourish?
- What do you think of the idea that God has designed/created you to flourish?
- How can we keep from getting discouraged by stories and example of the 'giants of faith' and their prayer lives?

Stu went on to explain three ways in which prayer leads to flourishing:

1. We flourish when we pray because it connects us to the Source of all life - God the Father.
2. We flourish when we pray because prayer reminds us of the right ordering of life.
3. We flourish when we pray because prayer changes things.

Think of these encouragements and reflect on the following questions:

- Which one of the above encourages you the most?
- Read the parable of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-32 and then make a list of words you would use to describe the father in the story. How do these words shape your approach to prayer?
- What does it mean to hallow God's name?
- There are several compound names of God found in the Old Testament. They have the formula The LORD our...Healer, Banner, who is Present, Righteousness, Peace, provider, Shepherd. How does knowing these names help us worship our heavenly Father?
- How do you think prayer changes things?
- Share testimonies of answer to prayer that you have experienced?
- What prayers are you still praying that have yet to be answered?
- God always answers our prayers, sometimes YES, NO, or WAIT. Why might God say NO or WAIT to our prayers?

Additional Resources for Prayer

The Prayer Course website has a load of resources to help us grow in our prayer life. If you have time work through the resource 1. How to pray the Lord's Prayer

- http://downloads.24-7prayer.com/prayer_course/2019/resources/pdfs/1%20How%20to%20Pray%20the%20Lord's%20Prayer.pdf

Response

- Is there anything from the preach and passage that you will be taking away to reflect on or work on?
- What steps can you take to develop a HABIT of prayer?

Prayer pointers

- Pray that we would be men and women who flourish in a life of prayer.
- Pray that we would grow in our prayer life together as a church.
- Pray that we will be filled with the Spirit as we pray and seek God.

Additional resources:

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>