

**40 DAYS OF PRAYER PART II**  
**“LEARNING TO GROW IN PRAYER”**  
**OCTOBER 17-18, 2020**

**INTRODUCTION**

- This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of 40 days of prayer.
- It is a huge opportunity to grow for all of us.
- Last week we talked about how we grow, because growing is natural if we are healthy.
- How do you feel about prayer?

**I. A STARTING POINT FOR PRAYER**

- I have never met a prayer expert.
- Luke 11:1, “...one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray...”<sup>2</sup>And He said to them, “When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come...”
- He told His followers we can learn how to pray.
- Watching Jesus, the disciples knew the power behind His miracles and His teaching was through prayer.
- Prayer is just talking to God.
- God’s crazy about you and He wants to interact with you.
- Psalm 103:13, “The Lord is like a father to His children, tender and compassionate to those who reverence Him.”
- I John 5:14-15, “We can be confident approaching God, knowing that He listens...And since we know that He hears us... we can be sure that He will answer us.”

**II. LEARNING TO TALK TO GOD**

- Prayer is talking to God, beware of making it more.
- Prayer is not a ceremony, it is a conversation.

- What’s a ceremony? It’s something with a bunch of rules and restrictions and regulations.
- A conversation has two parts, talking and listening.
- Prayer is relationship, not ritual. Not duty, but a privilege.
- He is not looking for flowery words, but sincere hearts.
- Simple, humble, thoughtful, real.
- Matthew 6:5-8, “When you pray don’t be like the hypocrites...to be seen by men...”
- Hebrews 10:22, “Let us come near to God with a sincere heart and a sure faith.”

**III. ASKING IS THE KEY**

- Over 20 times in the New Testament, we are commanded to ask.
- Ask, and it shall be given. Seek and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened.
- Why? Asking opens us to God’s goodness. It is the key to the kingdom of God.
- He gets to show how gracious He is.
- Regardless of the answer, God is a good, good Father.
- Jeremiah 33:3, “Call to me, and I will answer you...”
- Matthew 7:11, “...your Heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask Him?”
- James 4:2, “You do not have, because you do not ask.”
- So ask and then trust God’s answer.

**CLOSE**

- Isaiah 30:18, “The Lord waits for you to come to Him so He can show you His love and compassion.”
- James 4:8, “Draw close to God, and God will draw close to you.”