

PRAY PART 2

“LIVING IN CONVERSATION”

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 11:1–4, 11:9–13; PHILIPPIANS 4:4–7

SPEAKER: SATURDAY DR. DAN STEWART

SUNDAY PASTOR SHANE CARROLL

JANUARY 17-18, 2026

INTRODUCTION

- We Talk Constantly—Just Not Always to God
- Week 1 Dan Sneed spoke on Pruning.
- This week How Do We:
 - Move from prayer as duty to prayer as delight.
 - From event to rhythm.
 - From words to presence.
- John 15:5, “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.”

I. WHAT IS PRAYER

- Henri Nouwen in *Spiritual Formation*:
 - The discipline of prayer is the intentional...and regular effort to create space for God.
 - "...Set your hearts on God's Kingdom first. and all these other things will be given you as well." - Matthew 6:33-34
 - In solitary prayer we become aware that our identity does not depend on what we have accomplished or possess...
 - Gradually, we may find, our "useless" time (with God) will transform us, and everything around us will be different.

II. TEACH US TO PRAY

- Luke 11:1–4 NIV - The disciples ask Jesus to teach them to pray, not to preach or lead.
- Prayer was the visible source of Jesus' life and authority.
- Prayer begins with relationship.
- Prayer is the act of reaching out to “Our Father.”
- “Your kingdom come” - Prayer realigns our desires with God's will.
- “Give us our daily bread” - Dependence, not excess.

- “Forgive us as we forgive” - Forgiveness is a Kingdom value and it is not just for us, but it should also come from us.
- “Lead us not into temptation” - Prayer should shape our paths and desires.
- “Yours is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever...” - Matthew 6:9-13
- Prayer places everything back into His hands.
- Prayer transforms us before it changes anything else.

III. ASK, SEEK, KNOCK

- Luke 11:9-13 NIV, “...Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you...how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”
- Prayer is not an attempt to master the world.
- Prayer is submission to the master of the world.
- Prayer is not a religious task to master but a relational conversation to live in.

IV. PRAYER INVITES PEACE

- Philippians 4:4-7, “Always be full of joy in the Lord...⁶ Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything...His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.”
- Often (not always) anxiety grows where prayer is absent.
- For many of us, anxiety doesn't come from a lack of faith.
- We worry because we're holding responsibility that belongs to God alone.
- Vs. 6 - And Paul says, *instead* — pray.
- He calls us to pray as a way of returning what never belonged to us in the first place.
- Because prayer doesn't just change circumstances, it changes who is holding the weight.
- This is why prayer forms us before it changes anything else.

CLOSE

- Some of us struggle because prayer would require us: to slow down, stop performing, stop producing and to stop fixing.
- Over time, prayer will do what effort never could.