

DEVOTED

A NEW SERMON SERIES

PART 4: DEVOTED TO PRAYER

Sermon Notes

Text: Acts 2:42-47, Matthew 6:5-13

Intro:

Prayer (1) – by George Hebert

Prayer the church's banquet, angel's age,
God's breath in man returning to his birth,
The soul in paraphrase, heart in pilgrimage,
The Christian plummet sounding heav'n and earth
Engine against th' Almighty, sinner's tow'r,
Reversed thunder, Christ-side-piercing spear,
The six-days world transposing in an hour,
A kind of tune, which all things hear and fear;
Softness, and peace, and joy, and love, and bliss,
Exalted manna, gladness of the best,
Heaven in ordinary, man well drest,
The milky way, the bird of Paradise,
Church-bells beyond the stars heard, the soul's blood,
The land of spices; something understood.

1. Prayer not a command; it's an invitation

Invitations require the use of personal resources that create access, which is otherwise impossible.

Father = "Abba" - a familial, intimate title. Think "dadda"

2. Prayer should be regular, but not repetitive

v. 5 - "When you pray..." Jesus assumes a regular prayer life.

Prayer begins with the will, then over time it will be strengthened by habit, and God will reinforce it with his grace. All of this is supported by community.

Don't know what to pray for? What does the Bible say you should pray for?

3. Prayer is best caught, not taught

Luke 11:1 - The disciples saw & heard Jesus' prayer life.

The best way to learn how to pray is to be invited into someone's prayer life. The best way to teach someone to pray is to invite them into yours.

Conclusion:

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. Do you remember a coach or teacher who had a significant impact on your life? What made their lessons so impactful?
2. What can we learn from your best teachers & coaches when it comes to discipleship (i.e. teaching people how to follow Jesus?).

Study & Discussion:

1. Read/recite the Lord's prayer out loud together. Matthew 5:9-13.
What are the features of the prayer? Does this prayer sound like your prayers? Why or why not? Do you recite the Lord's Prayer as a part of your regular prayer life? Do you think it would be valuable to do so?
2. Read John 17:1-19. This is Jesus' famous prayer for his disciples.
Where do you see elements of The Lord's Prayer in this prayer?
What else do you notice about the prayer?
3. Sometimes people have a hard time praying, because they don't know what to pray for. In that case, one of the best places to start is with things the Bible tells us to pray for. Brainstorm a list of what the Bible tells us to pray for.
 - Read Romans 8:26-27. These verses give us another tool for praying when we're not sure what to pray for - The Holy Spirit! Many people interpret the Holy Spirit's intercession here specifically as speaking in tongues. What role does tongues speaking play in prayer?

Application:

1. How will you improve your devotion to prayer this week?

2. Is there someone you can invite into your prayer life, so that you can help teach them to pray?

Prayer:

Requests

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