

# A Life of Prayer.

Week #5: How does God speak? - Part 3

February 03, 2019

Learning prayer is never easy, because it includes a large helping of biblical truth coupled with deep personal experience. It's one thing to study prayer, but it's entirely another to practice it. Prayer can be clear yet confusing, wonderful yet confounding, hopeful yet discouraging. For some, prayer is all about communion with God, while for others it is about bringing God's Kingdom to earth as in heaven. For some it's deeply personal. For others mostly cosmic. Many treat prayer like rubbing the lamp and demanding God do something about the mess our lives have become. Many others have abandoned prayer, because the desired outcomes have not been realized. Some see prayer as pure mysticism. Others see only pragmatism.

With the hope of cutting through the confusion, we are beginning 2019 by opening the scriptures together to learn more about prayer. Our goal is to build a biblical foundation that will lead to a robust practicing of what Jesus so clearly embraced in his life & ministry.

## **Study Questions: *God's preferred ways of speaking - part 3.***

1. Last week we began by asking, "What has been your experience with the Holy Spirit?" This week, let's start by answering "What has been your experience with God's Church?"
2. Pastor Ken summarized with a question that every congregation is required to ask: *Is everything we do together predicated on pleasing God and eagerly anticipating His Son's return?*
  - If you could choose 4-5 activities that a congregation can do to please God and anticipate Jesus' return, what would they be? Why these?
3. Ken began by stating congregations that God speaks through expect Christ's return imminently.
  - If Christ returned this year, what would we do together differently?
    - Read 2 Thessalonians 2. Can you feel the urgency of these people that Paul is writing to, as he reminds them about Christ's return?
    - How has the enemy dulled our expectation of Jesus' second coming, and what has it done to us?
4. Ken went on to list five more identifying features of congregations living under the authority of God. Which of them do you find most compelling and why?
  - They announce the news of Jesus urgently.
  - They are under spiritual attack constantly.
  - They pray eagerly, fervently, expectantly and faithfully.
  - They serve each other generously
  - They seek His truth intently.
5. The intent of Ken's set of messages this year has been to learn and grow in prayer, by knowing God better.
  - Has what we covered so far accomplished this in any way?
  - What do you believe is necessary for you to know God better?
  - How do you want to grow in your relationship with Christ, and how will this impact your prayer life?