

A Life of Prayer.

Week #2: Where prayer begins - (part 2)

January 13, 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: *Where prayer begins - part 2.*

1. Pastor Ken carried on teaching this week that our prayer lives are constructed upon how accurately and deeply we know God.
 - You've been asked by a new neighbour couple why you attend church, and what you believe about God. In 2-3 minutes, what would you tell them?
 - Your neighbours then ask what you believe about *prayer* - they want you to pray for something that is troubling them, but they're not sure how you'll respond. Of course you will pray for them, but how will you first respond to their question regarding prayer?
2. Ken said that knowing God is not only a matter of our humanity encountering His divinity, but God's divinity also encountering our humanity.
 - What's the difference between these, and why are both essential in order to pray well?
3. Read Romans 3:9-26 & 8:1-4, 31-39.
 - What happened when God's divinity encountered humanity?
 - What happened to those prior to Christ's coming? (3:25-26)
 - What has happened to those since Christ? What happened to you?
4. How might Romans 8:31-32 provide a lesson in prayer?
5. Ken stated that God's greatest glory is not His ability to see and know everything, nor even His creating power that formed the Universe, but rather that He is good and loving and kind.
 - If this is true, then how might prayer God see prayer?
 - How might He approach you, and how might He desire for you to approach Him? (read again, perhaps, Hebrews 4:14-16)
 - What circumstances - hurts, concerns & worries - are you facing that God is "*for you*" about?
 - How does the truth that God is for you in these things change how you pray?
6. Make a prayer list for the next week that you will look at each day. After listing what you are praying about, write at the top of the list "Romans 8:31-32 - God is for me". Then pray through these concerns confident that what the Bible says is true as you approach God in prayer.