

Prayer... Life

Series: Sustainable Faith: Vision

Matthew 6:7-8 TM (1003)

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Point # 5 We will learn how to pray.

- a. We will learn what it means to move forward “on our knees”, crying out to God as a way of life
- b. We will train & equip people to minister in prayer effectively.

Point # 6 We will learn how to be Christian disciples.

- c. Our life and resources are simply too short to make it all about organized programming.
- d. We will learn how to BE Christ to those we engage with in the normal course of our life

I. The essence of prayer

a. What we think we know about prayer

Matthew 7:7 NIV ⁷“Ask and it will be given to you

Matthew 6:7-8 TM *The world is full of so-called prayer warriors who are prayer-ignorant. They're full of formulas and programs and advice, peddling techniques for getting what you want from God. Don't fall for that nonsense. This is your Father you are dealing with, and he knows better than you what you need.*

b. What we need to know about prayer

SØREN KIERKEGAARD *A man prayed, and at first he thought that prayer was talking. But he became more and more quiet until in the end he realized that prayer is listening.*

Luke 10:38-42 NLT ³⁸As Jesus and the disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem, they came to a village where a woman named Martha welcomed them into her home. ³⁹Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord's feet, listening to what he taught. ⁴⁰But Martha was worrying over the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, “Lord, doesn't it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me.” ⁴¹But the Lord said to her, “My dear Martha, you are so upset over all these details! ⁴²There is really only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it—and I won't take it away from her.”

c. Prayer in the life of community

II. The essence of Christian life

a. The double-edged sword of “organized church programming”

Ephesians 1:9-10 NLT ⁹God’s secret plan has now been revealed to us; it is a plan centered on Christ, designed long ago according to his good pleasure. ¹⁰And this is his plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth.

b. “Ordinary” Christian life

TIM HANSEL *I simply believe that there is a mystery of the ordinary, that the commonplace is full of wonder, and that this life that we call Christian is different from what we think it is. It is infinitely more subtle, more powerful, more dangerous, more magnificent, more exciting, more humorous, more delicious, more adventurous, more involved, and more troublesome than most of us think.*

Romans 12:1-2 TM *So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.*

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