

Prayer Is...
40 Days of Prayer—Week 2

Observations about prayer:

I. We were created to **pray**.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 – He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also put eternity in their hearts, but no one can discover the work God has done from beginning to end. (CSB)

II. We are **not very good** at prayer.

Romans 8:26 – In the same way the Spirit also helps us in our weakness, because we do not know what to pray for as we should, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with unspoken groanings. (CSB)

III. Misconceptions about prayer create **frustrations** in prayer.

- A. Prayer is not a **magic wand**.
- B. Prayer is not a **fire extinguisher**.
- C. Prayer is not a game of **tug of war**.
- D. Prayer is not a ritual to **relieve guilt**.

IV. Proper understanding about prayer will create **pleasure** in prayer.

- A. God loves you to **talk** with Him.

1 John 5:14-15 – ¹⁴And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him. ¹⁵And since we know he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask for. (NLT)

- B. God listens to **simple** and **sincere** prayers.

Matthew 6:5-6 – ⁵“Whenever you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites, because they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by people. Truly I tell you, they have their reward. ⁶But when you pray, go into your private room, shut your door, and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your

Father who sees in secret will reward you. (CSB)

C. God pleasures in **showing His grace** by answering your prayer.

Jeremiah 33:3 – Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know. (NIV)

D. God wants **to be close** to you.

Isaiah 30:18 – So the Lord must wait for you to come to him so he can show you his love and compassion. For the Lord is a faithful God. Blessed are those who wait for his help. (NLT)

Thought For The Week:

The closer I get to God

the less **stressed** and more **blessed** I will be.

Todd Hitchcock - Bethel Baptist Church September 17, 2018 Message Notes
