

SERMON OUTLINE James 5:16b

The Significance, Mystery, and Practice of Prayer

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF PRAYER

Prayer in the Bible

Prayer in the Heart and Work of God

1. *Prayer is a key aspect of the purpose of our lives*
2. *God uses prayer to accomplish things that otherwise wouldn't happen*

THE MYSTERY OF PRAYER

THE POWER OF THE RIGHTEOUS PRAYER

THE PRACTICE OF PRAYER

1. *Pray Biblically*
2. *Pray Personally*
3. *Pray Expectantly*
4. *Pray Constantly*
5. *Pray Systematically*

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The main point of all of this is that God has given prayer to His people as a means of communing with Him and as a means of accomplishing His purposes in the world. Therefore, God's people pray.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. How would you describe your prayer life? How would you rate it on a scale of 1-10? What is one thing you wish were different? What is one thing that has been especially encouraging?
3. Have you ever had a prayer clearly answered?
4. Which story in the Bible on prayer stands out to you the most?
5. What do you think of the prominence of prayer in the Bible? Had you ever considered how many people prayed, in so many different situations, for so many different purposes? Are there any ways this challenges or encourages your prayer life?
6. In his sermon, Pastor Dave mentioned that (1) prayer is a key aspect of the purpose of our lives and (2) God uses prayer to accomplish things that otherwise wouldn't happen. How have you found these things to be true in your life?
7. Has prayer ever seemed mysterious to you? Why not or how so?
8. Which of Pastor Dave's points on the practice of prayer is most and least natural to you? Which do you hope to grow in?
9. In what way do you most clearly see the greatness of God in this passage?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

10. Pray.
11. Pray prayers of adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication.
12. Pray biblically, personally, expectantly, constantly, and systematically.
13. Pray for your own soul, your family, the people of Grace Church and our leaders, the lost in Wyoming, our missionaries and the people they're trying to reach with the gospel, our governing authorities, and the sick and vulnerable you know of.
14. Read [Praying the Bible](#) by Donald Whitney. Pray the Bible.
15. Find someone to pray with this week. Teach your kids to pray. Help a newer Christian to learn to pray.
16. What is one specific thing you mean to do differently in the power of the Spirit as a result of the things you saw or heard in this text or sermon?

PRAYER POINTS

17. Adoration. Praise God for being omnipresent, omnipotent, loving, good, kind, and wise.
18. Confession. Confess any indifference to prayer. Confess any prayerlessness. Confess any doubt in your prayer life.
19. Thanksgiving. Thank Jesus for teaching us how to pray and for advocating for us when we do. Thank the Spirit for interpreting our goofy prayers. Thank the Father for gladly hearing every prayer of every one of His children.
20. Supplication. Pray for your own soul, your family, the people of Grace Church and our leaders, the lost in Wyoming, our missionaries and the people they're trying to reach with the gospel, our governing authorities, and the sick and vulnerable you know of.