

The Walk: Talking With God (Prayer)

(Week 2: Corresponding to message on Jan. 10, 2016)

Getting Started:

1. What do you remember from your childhood about prayer? Were you taught to pray and if so how?
2. Where do you struggle with prayer?
3. How did you see the principle of abiding or remaining in Jesus (John 15) show up in your life last week?

Digging Deeper:

1. Read Revelation 2:1 – 7.
 - a. As a group, summarize the key point. How can we avoid “forsaking our first love?”
2. Define the benefits of spiritual disciplines and the possible dangers?
3. Read Matthew 6:5 – 15.
 - a. How does Jesus describe how and how not to pray?
 - b. Jesus refused to complement any behavior that was disconnected with a person Character. What word does Jesus use to define this in verse 5? How does Jesus propose a better way?
4. What is the point of Matthew 6:7? How have you personally slipped into this in your own prayer life?
5. In Jesus' model prayer, who did Jesus start with and what did He ask us to pray for in Matthew 6:9 and 10? Why did Jesus start this way? How would this enrich your own prayer life?
6. As you look at Matthew 6:11, is there a change of focus? What is Jesus saying should be a part of our prayer life? How does verse 10 inform verse 11? Read Matthew 6:25 – 33? How do these assurances from Jesus help our perspective and anxiety?
7. How does confession and forgiveness affect my prayer life (Matthew 6:12, 14, 15)? How do Ephesians 4:30 and 1 Thessalonians 5:19 offer some insight?
8. Why do we need to pray “Matthew 6:13”?
9. If there is enough time: What is the significance about the plural pronouns and adjectives in this prayer? How does what you just discovered reconcile with the principle Jesus stated in Matthew 6:6?

Application:

1. What are some principles you learned about prayer that you can apply this week in your prayer life? What are some bad habits you need to eliminate?
2. As we have studied God's Word together, which principles did the Holy Spirit say you are doing right? Which principles did you sense conviction and prompting to practice this week?
3. Share how you will pray differently this week as a result of what you have learned about prayer.