

TALK IT OVER

Living on a Prayer

BOTTOM LINE

Prayer is aligning my will with God's will.

CONVERSATION STARTER

What has been your favorite thing so far this summer? Is there anything you are praying/hoping for?

THINGS TO CONSIDER

What did you hear?

What do you think?

What will you do?

RESOURCES

- The Daily:
newpointe.org/thedaily
- [Why Should We Pray?](#) by Andy Stanley (35 min.)

KEY VERSES AND QUOTES

And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." Matthew 6:5-15 NIV

"Jesus said the best way for us mere mortals to relate to an incomprehensible God is to approach Him as a perfect Father."
– Dwight Mason

"According to Jesus, if we pray any way other than with an attitude of submission to His will, we are not doing it right." – Dwight Mason

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What do you think prompted the disciples to ask Jesus to teach them to pray when they had been raised in the synagogue to pray? What do you think seemed most different about their prayers? Who do you know who prays in such a way that you think they have a special connection? Why? Is the idea of approaching God as Father comforting and empowering or difficult for you? Explain. Real, revealing, relaxed. How well do these words express your communication with God? Discuss. Jesus says to "hit a pause button" when we start to pray and recognize who God is. How well do you do that? Next, we surrender to His will and purpose. Talk about the dailiness of surrender and how you are doing that in your life. Declare your dependency on God. How do you keep this priority when you are busy but there's no crisis? Is it easier for you to pray from the heart when there is no problem or when you are in panic mode? What are the best ways you have learned to stay consistent and fulfilled in your communication with God?

ACTION STEP

I recognize the amazing privilege of communicating with the God of the Universe, who is also my Father, and being known as His dear child. This is what I will do in my prayer life to maximize my relationship with Him and my mission in life: _____