



BECOME A PERSON OF REWARDING PRAYER

SUMMARY:

There are many ideas floating around about what prayer is. There are questions people have about what prayer means and why it even matters. Does God hear us? Do our prayers make a difference? What's the point of prayer?

In this sermon, Pastor Derwin talks about how we can become people of rewarding prayer. We learned that prayer is: (1) a priceless gift, (2) the door through which we enter to discover God's heart of unending grace, (3) a way to align ourselves with God's will, and (4) listening to God's voice through Scripture. When we pray it's important to pray with a posture of grace and not religiosity. (See the chart below for the differences between the two)

When we pray, we ought to pray, desiring more of God's presence than God's blessings. He is the one who transforms us by giving us of His Spirit. When we pray in this way, we receive a reward that is greater than anything we could imagine—we receive Jesus Himself.

Religiosity	Grace
I obey; therefore, I am accepted.	I'm accepted; therefore, I obey.
Motivation is based in fear and insecurity.	Motivation is based in grateful joy.
My prayer life consists largely of petition and only heats up when I am in need. My main purpose in prayer is to control circumstances.	My prayer life consists of generous stretches of praise and adoration. My main purpose in prayer is fellowship with God.

STORMPROOF

FINDING FAITH IN LIFE'S DIFFICULTIES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Reflect on what you were taught about prayer growing up. *In your household, did you pray? When did you pray? How did you pray? How has this shaped you as a Christ-follower? If you didn't grow up in a praying household, what ideas or beliefs did you have about prayer?*

Pastor Derwin shared the following quote from Danish philosopher Soren 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 was listening."

When you pray, how much listening do you usually do?

How can you incorporate more listening into your prayer life?

What role does Scripture play in prayer?

How can Scripture help you be a better listener?

Review the chart above on the differences between praying with a religiosity mindset versus a grace mindset.

In what posture have you been praying?

If you've been praying with a posture of religiosity, what would it look like to change?

Read Matthew 6:7-8.

Why isn't it necessary to use many words in prayer?

In what ways do these verses bring comfort?

Do you trust that your heavenly Father will provide what you need before you even ask?

In the "Action Step" for this week's sermon, Pastor Derwin encouraged us all to pray the Lord's Prayer three times a day. This is the prayer Jesus gave to the disciples to teach them how to pray. You can find this prayer in Matthew 6:9-13:

⁹ "Therefore, you should pray like this: Our Father in heaven, Your name be honored as holy. ¹⁰ Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us today our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³ And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Take some time now to pray this prayer as a group.