

# Prayer

(experiencing awe & intimacy with God)

desert breeze  
community church



Saturday & Sunday, February 28/March 1, 2015

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## "The Necessity of Prayer" Romans 8:14-17

Suffering has a way of reminding us of something that has always been true...we can't survive or even thrive without vital union and communion with God.

1) As sons of God we have the Spirit of God giving us a connection with the living God that is astounding. V14; Jn1:12

2) As adopted sons of God we have incalculable privileges:

- ✓ Security. V15 "not...fear, but ...we cry, Abba! Father!"
- ✓ Authority. V15 "Not a slave...but adoption as sons,"
- ✓ Intimacy. V15 "we cry, Abba! Father!"
- ✓ Assurance. V16 "The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God."
- ✓ Inheritance. V17 "and if children, then heirs..."
- ✓ Discipline. V17 "provided we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him."
- ✓ Family resemblance. V29 "to be conformed into the image of his Son,"

3) Prayer involves not only the convictions of the mind but also the affections of the heart. Prayer is asking the Holy Spirit to help us experience our theology. V16; 1Pet1:8

4) Prayer is both assertive supplication (Awe) and peaceful adoration (Intimacy). Rom8:13, 26-27; vv15-16; Kingdom Centered: Ps10, 13, 39, 42-43, 88 Communion Centered: Ps27, 63, 84, 131

5) In prayer we can identify and express our feelings but also process them with brutal honesty in God's presence. V15 we cry, Abba! Father! Matt7:7-11; Gen32:22-32

6) God is the only person from whom you can't hide from. Prayer, therefore, leads to a self-knowledge & deep change that is impossible to achieve any other way. Ps139:1-22

7) Living well depends on the reordering of our loves. To love our success more than God and our neighbor hardens our heart, making us less able to feel and to sense. Prayer is the key to everything we need to be & do in life. Ps139:23-24

8) Prayer is finding our way through duty to delight. Ps37:4

## Growing Notes

1) What are your thoughts and feelings when it comes to the topic of prayer? Have you ever been in a difficult place that you said, "I'm not going to make it...if I don't pray?" Explain. Do you think that as Christians we can survive and thrive without prayer?

2) Read Romans 8:13-17. What do you like most about this text? How astounding is it for a believer to be a temple of the Holy Spirit and to be able to connect with the living God of the Bible (v14; John 1:12; 1Cor.6:19-20)?

3) As adopted sons of God we have incalculable privileges. Review the seven from the sermon notes. Prayer is asking the Holy Spirit to help us experience our theology (v16). Explain how that relates to these 7 privileges. How is prayer both awe & intimacy with God?

4) Why is it important to identify, express & process our feelings with brutal honesty in God's presence (v15; Matt7:7-11; Gen32:22-32)? How does knowing that we can't hide from God lead to a prayer life of greater self-knowledge & deep change (reordering of our loves)? What are some things you can do to take prayer from duty to delight (Ps37:4)? Pray.