

# Prayer

(experiencing awe & intimacy with God)

desert breeze  
community church



Saturday & Sunday, March 28/29, 2015

Ray Davis

## “Encountering God” Matthew 28:16-20

Prayer is conversation with God. However, conversations can remain mere exchanges of information that do not lead to true personal encounter and relationship. We don't just want to know about God, but to know God, to seek his face and presence. Ps27:8; 105:5

### Whom We Encounter:

1) The Christian doctrine of the Trinity teaches that there is one God in three persons who have known and loved one another from before the dawn of time. v19 “...in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” John 14-17; 17:5, 8

2) The only reason God would have had for creating us was not to get the cosmic love and joy of relationship (because He already had it) but to share it. vv19, 20; John17:20-24

3) Prayer is our way of entering into the happiness of God Himself, because of the distinct work of every person in the Godhead. The Father arranged our salvation, the Son accomplished it and the Holy Spirit applies it to our lives. 1Pet1:2; Eph1:3-14, 2:18

### What Happens in This Encounter:

1) When we grasp Christ's astonishing and costly sacrifice for us we transfer our ultimate love, hope and trust from other things to Christ. v19 “baptizing them...” Jn1:12-13

2) We begin to realize through the Spirit of God and the Word of God the magnitude of our benefits and blessings in Christ. v20 “teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” Jn17:23; Gal4:4-6

3) We begin to want almost desperately to know and love God for Himself because His love and regard make popularity and worldly status look pale and thin. v17 they worshiped Him...”

4) In Christ we get the love we need to make up for our unhappy family history and past hurts. vv17, 20; Ps27:10; Rom8:14-16

5) We begin to experience a powerful confidence that God is handling our lives well, that our bad things will turn out for good, our good things cannot be taken from us and the best things are yet to come. v20; Rom8:26-30

6) Our conversation with God leads to an encounter with Him as we sense His presence, receive His joy, His love, His peace and confidence, and thereby are changed in attitude, behavior, and character. John10:10; 17:3; 2Pet3:18

### Growing Notes

1) What comes to mind when you think of prayer as conversation with God? Conversations can be insincere and shallow or sincere & deep. Explain. What's the difference between knowing about God and truly knowing God (Ps27:8; 105:5)?

2) Read Matthew 28:16-20. What responses did Jesus' post resurrection appearance elicit (v17)? Where did Jesus tell His disciples to go and do (v18)? What does it mean to make disciples (vv19-20)?

3) What insight into the triune nature of God do you find in this passage (v19)? Review the three statements from the sermon notes under “Whom We Encounter” along with cross references. Why did God create us? How did each member of the Godhead participate in our salvation (1Pet1:2; Eph1:3-14, 2:18)?

4) Review the six statements in the sermon notes under “What Happens in This Encounter” along with cross references. Which one(s) most resonate with you? Which one(s) are you needing to grow in? What are some next steps you can begin to take to grow in your prayer life? Pray.