

Week 14- "Practice: Daily Prayer"
Study Guide and Discussions Questions

Week 14 (8/18/2019)

Practice: Daily Prayer (ch.15, pg. 240-262)

For this weeks study please read chapter 15 in the book, "*Prayer*", by Timothy Keller. If you have any observations or questions in the reading please feel welcome to bring them to your Life Group.

Main point for the Study:

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. (Colossians 4:2 ESV)

Tim Keller Quote from chapter 15:

"Paul said we should 'pray without ceasing' (1 Thess. 5:17), meaning that we should, if possible, do everything all day with conscious reference to God (1 Cor. 10:31). There should be background music of thankfulness and joy behind every incident in our day, audible only to us (Col. 3:16-17). This kind of spontaneous and constant prayer during the day should be a habit of the heart. We will never develop it, however, unless we take up the discipline of regular, daily prayer." (Keller, *Prayer*, pg. 240)

Primary Bible Scripture for the week:

Colossians 4:2 (ESV)

² Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

Philippians 4:5-7 (ESV)

^{5b} The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (ESV)

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Study and Reflection Questions:

In Keller's book, *Prayer*, chapter 15 focuses on applying prayer in our lives regularly. Keller stresses the importance of prayer as a daily practice. He challenges us to be disciplined and diligent in our prayer time.

1. Read Colossians 4:2. Paul is ending his letter to the church of Colossae with some final instructions on Christian living. In this verse what spiritual discipline is Paul exhorting the believers in Colossae to adhere to? What are the three primary adverbs that Paul uses to characterize Christian prayer?
2. To be *steadfast* in prayer means to be strong and devoted. On one hand pray boldly with the expectation that God will answer. On the other hand pray persistently when you don't hear God's answer clearly. Practically speaking how would you describe what steadfast prayer looks like in one's life?
3. To be *watchful* in prayer means to be aware and alert. Aware of God working in all things. Alert to the trappings of the world around you. How does prayer help us with both awareness of God and alertness to sin?
4. To be *thankful* in prayer includes experiencing both delight and humility. We are to be delighted in *all* circumstances, because God is always at work. We are humbled in the realization that God is including us in His plan to renew and redeem all of creation. Think about the least favorite part of your past week. Can you see a way to be thankful to God for it? Discuss your thoughts on this.
5. The Apostle Paul ends many of his letters (epistles) with an exhortation to remain in prayer. In addition to Colossians 4:2, read above: Philippians 4:5-7 and 1Thessalonians 5:16-18. What characteristics of prayer do you observe are shared in these verses? Just as Paul encourages his readers to abide in prayer at the end of his letters it seems fitting that we end this series with a similar exhortation. What are some realistic ways you can grow your prayer life with God? How will you "continue steadfastly" in prayer? Pray to God that He help you succeed in this endeavor.

“PRAYER” –Pathway Church Message Series
14-week study guide, (spring 2019)

Welcome to the study guide that we will be using for the next 14 weeks as we read Timothy Keller’s book, “Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God.” This book will aid us as we deepen our understanding of what the Bible teaches regarding prayer. Below is the schedule for weekly reading and the Pathway sermons that will coincide with the chapters in the “Prayer” book.

During this series we will journey together and explore many aspects of prayer. Prayer is a key spiritual discipline in the life of a Christ follower. One can certainly pray and not be a Christian, but one cannot be a Christian and go without prayer. Prayer is the primary way a Christian communes with and communicates with God. Prayer is vital in the Christian life and yet frequently a neglected discipline. Christians are instructed to “pray without ceasing... for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thess. 5:17,18 ESV).

The purpose of this series is to deepen our understanding of and expand our experience with prayer. Together we will experience awe and intimacy with God through our prayer life.

The primary study guide resource will be Timothy Keller’s book, “Prayer.” Pathway will provide additional questions to help guide individual study or Life Group discussion. It is recommended you do the reading before you come to the Sunday service that coincides with that chapter. The discussion points contained herein are meant to give initial guidance and focus for Pathway’s church-wide study. It is the prerogative of the group to dive deeper into Keller’s book if so desired.

In addition to the Sunday sermons, Tim Keller's book "Prayer", and Life Group discussions, there will be several other ways during this series that Pathway will encourage one to further enrich their prayer lives:

1. Open invitation to Sunday morning prayer time @ 9AM in Room 101. We will be gathering in Room 101 every Sunday morning before service from 9AM – 10AM to pray with one another and for one another (no experience necessary!). All are encouraged to come.
2. Pathway Pastors will be texting out brief prayer prompts to those who opt it. It is easy, just text this message "**@pccprays**" to the number **81010** and you will receive a daily text prayer prompt as a reminder to take a moment to talk with God.

If you prefer email instead, just send an email to

pccprays@mail.remind.com (no subject required).

3. Pathway will be encouraging prayer during the second worship set of Sunday service, creating more opportunities for people to pray with one another, pray on their own, or pray with one of the prayer shepherds in the back of the sanctuary.

The Pastors and Leadership of Pathway Community Church thank you for your participation in this prayer series. We pray that this series will bring about a deeper understanding and a richer experience in your prayer life. We pray that your awe and intimacy with God grows and deepens through this series.

14-Week Reading and Sermon Schedule

Desiring Prayer

Week 1 (5/5/2019)

The Necessity of Prayer (ch.1, pg. 7-18) and ***The Greatness of Prayer*** (ch.2, pg. 19-32)

Understanding Prayer

Week 2 (5/12/2019)

What is Prayer? (ch.3, pg. 33-49)

5/19/2019 (break from Prayer series for PCC Retreat weekend)

Week 3 (5/26/2019)

Conversing With God (ch.4, pg. 50-65)

Week 4 (6/2/2019)

Encountering God (ch.5, pg. 66-80)

Learning Prayer

Week 5 (6/9/2109)

Letters on Prayer (ch.6, pg. 81-96)

Week 6 (6/16/2019) *Father's Day

Rules for Prayer (ch.7, pg. 97-107)

Week 7 (6/23/2019)

The Prayer of Prayers (ch.8, pg. 108-119)

6/30/2019 (break from Prayer series for a Generous Giving message)

Week 8 (7/7/2019)

The Touchstones of Prayer (ch.9, pg. 120-142)

Deepening Prayer

Week 9 (7/14/2019)

As Conversation: Meditating on His Word (ch.10, pg. 143-164)

Week 10 (7/21/2019)

As Encounter: Seeking His Face (ch.11, pg. 165-186)

Doing Prayer

Week 11 (7/28/2019)

Awe: Praising His Glory (ch.12, pg. 187-204)

Week 12 (8/4/2019)

Intimacy: Finding His Grace (ch.13, pg. 205-221)

Week 13 (8/11/2019)

Struggle: Asking His Help (ch.14, pg. 222-239)

Week 14 (8/18/2019)

Practice: Daily Prayer (ch.15, pg. 240-262)