

Week 7- “The Prayer of Prayers”
Study Guide and Discussions Questions

Week 7 (6/23/2019)

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

For this weeks study please read chapter 8 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.

Due to the nature of this Chapter there are more available study questions than usual. Please feel free to choose the questions you find most compelling for your group. We do ask that all groups address the last comment, #8. Thank you.

Main point for the Study:

Jesus Christ gave us The Lord’s Prayer as the key to unlock all the riches of prayer.
Everything we need is found within it. (see *Prayer*, Keller, pg. 109)

Primary Bible Scripture for the week:

Matthew 6:9—13 (ESV)

9 Pray then like this:

“Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name.
10 Your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
11 Give us this day our daily bread,
12 and forgive us our debts,
 as we also have forgiven our debtors.
13 And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.

Study and Reflection Questions:

In Keller’s book, *Prayer*, chapter 8 expounds upon The Lord’s Prayer as a guide from Jesus Christ in how we are to pray. Keller addresses 7 key petitions found in this very well known passage of scripture (see Keller, *Prayer*, pg. 108—119). This will provide the basis for this weeks study.

1. The Lord's Prayer, petition #1:

"Hallowed be Your Name" (Matt 6:9)

(see Keller, pg. 110—111)

This verse reminds us to keep God's name holy. It is also an acknowledgement that God's holiness needs to be evident in those who live by His name (the faithful believers, we the saints). How do believers in Christ practically show the world that God's name is holy (i.e. that God is holy)?

2. The Lord's Prayer, petition #2:

"Your kingdom come..." (Matt 6:10)

(see Keller, pg. 111—112)

This verse asks God to extend his life-changing power over every part of our lives. It also contains a future dimension and directs our gaze toward the eternal. Are there areas of your life that you have difficulty in giving over to God and His kingdom (i.e. areas that you believe if only you try hard enough... you can make it happen)?

3. The Lord's Prayer, petition #3:

"Your will be done" (Matt 6:10)

(see Keller, pg. 112—113)

This verse declares that we will trust in God no matter our circumstance. We pray for strength to endure all sorts of hardship and still remain faithful in the goodness of God. If you are able, share with your group an instance when this was particularly difficult to do: a time, or season of your life, that you doubted God's goodness (or maybe doubted His presence in your life).

4. The Lord's Prayer, petition #4:

"Give us this day our daily bread" (Matt 6:11)

(see Keller, pg. 114—115)

The Father does want to hear the needs of His children. In light of the first three petitions we can now come before God in a truly humble manner asking for his provision. Keller quotes St. Augustine saying, "Give me neither poverty (lest I resent you) or riches (lest I forget you)." How does this quote aptly apply to Matt 6:11?

5. The Lord's Prayer, petition #5:

"Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors" (Matt 6:12)

(see Keller, pg. 115—116)

This fifth petition addresses both our relationship with God and with others. When we honestly see our sin and humbly seek forgiveness from God it enables us to also grant forgiveness to others when they seek it. Which is personally harder for you: to forgive, or to accept forgiveness? Why do you think this is?

6. The Lord's Prayer, petition #6:

"Lead us not into temptation" (Matt 6:13)

(see Keller, pg. 116—117)

This verse is not asking that we never be tempted. Rather, we ask for God's help that we do not succumb to the temptation (i.e. that we not be brought *into* the temptation). When do you feel you are most vulnerable to giving into temptations: during times of prosperity (when feelings of power and pride arise) or, during times of adversity (when feelings of self-pity and anger arise)? Self-reflect or discuss with your group.

7. The Lord's Prayer, petition #7:

"Deliver us from evil" (Matt 6:13)

(see Keller, pg. 117)

Petition #6 speaks to the internal struggles we have with sin while petition #7 is directed toward the external battle we have with "the evil one" (some bible translations use "the evil one" in place of "evil" in verse 13). Some scholars believe verse 13 is addressing two different types of evil that we fight (internal and external), while other scholars believe verse 13 is addressing one common evil. What do you think (remember, even biblical scholars don't agree unanimously on this one)?

8. Final comment: The Lord's Prayer is not intended to bind us to a rigid, formulaic way of praying. This piece of scripture is giving us over-all guidance on topics, emphasis, purpose, and the condition of our hearts when we approach the Father. A final observation that Keller points out is the use of the plural throughout the prayer: our Father, give us, lead us, and deliver us. This is a very significant observation; Jesus could have easily phrased the command using the singular, "My Father, give *me*, lead *me*, deliver *me*." Discuss what this means, how it affects the way we view prayer, and what it says about the significance of Christian community.

"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)