

Lesson #5: What is and isn't Prayer

A moment of silence is not prayer. Mumbling rote words is not prayer. Keeping someone in mind is not prayer. If your thoughts drift in and out while you are praying, you are not praying. When we pray we are talking directly to God. Would you hang up on God if He was on the phone? Would you mumble if He was right in front of you? If you do not feel you are talking to GOD in all capital letters, with lightning flying and thunder roaring then chances are you are not praying. If you don't feel like you are having a deep heartfelt conversation with a beloved Father, then you are not praying. When John saw God, He said "*When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last."* (Rev. 1:17). When we pray, do we have the same reverence? The same attention? Moses was called on the mountain alone because the people said they'd die if they saw God. Asking for a wish list of stuff is not praying. God is not Santa Claus. Jesus was nailed to pieces of dead wood and died a brutally painful death so that we could talk to God directly and ultimately go to Heaven to be with him. Have you ever seriously contemplated just how painful Jesus's death was? Hanging there by iron shards while you slowly suffocate to death. Why would you not give God your full attention when praying to him? Your full reverence? Your full respect?

So what is prayer and why do we do it? Prayer is ultimately a way of developing a personal one on one relationship with our God. Through prayer is how we get to know Him. Knowing Him and what He is, is what leads us to worship him. Once we know Him better, this leads us to want to conform ourselves to His will. Prayer changes US. Prayer gives us a direct line to God's power. Prayer is ultimately all about God and His Glory.

Sample Prayer:

Almighty Father, help me to never forget that I am in Your incredible presence when I pray. Help me to not treat it as a duty or mindless activity. Help me come to You with worship, with love, and with a true desire to experience You in my life. Help me abandon my own agendas, wanting to be nowhere except aligned with Your will. And may Your kingdom work through this heart and home of mine, taking me wherever You want me to go. Amen.