

PRAYER ~ Religion or Relationship ...Matthew 6:5-18

“And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, He departed and went out to a desolate place, and there He prayed.” ...Mark 1:35 (ESV)

“The expression of Christian character is not good doing, but God-likeness. If the Spirit of God has transformed you within, you will exhibit Divine characteristics in your life, not good human characteristics. God's life in us expresses itself as God's life, not as human life trying to be godly.” ...Oswald Chambers

1. What is Prayer all about?... *Living with a Sincere, Pure, and Faithful Heart!*

Scripture: **Matthew 6:5-6**

- Our Example... **Mark 1:35**
- How you talk to God...

2. Religious Prayer... *Not what it's about!*

Scripture: **Matthew 6:7-8**

- *"...True prayer is measured by weight, not by length. A single groan before God may have more fullness of prayer in it than a fine oration of great length." ...Charles Spurgeon*

3. What was **Fundamental** for the Early Church... has become **Supplemental** for Today

- "Stop for a minute and think about how you typically interact with God. If prayer time is dominated by your own talking, some adjustments may be in order. Just as the Lord spoke to David, God also has many things to say to you, if you'll simply let Him speak." ...Charles Stanley

4. Relational Prayer...

Scripture: **Matthew 6:9-18**

Group Discussion

1. What stood out to you in tonight's message and scripture passages? ...*be descriptive!*
2. What seems to be the main focus when you pray? Do you primarily give God your requests for helping things that are wrong in life, or do you seek to spend time in His presence and share your heart with Him, as well as your concerns? ...*be descriptive!*
 - Do you take time to listen to Him?... *Talk about it.*
3. READ 2Chronicles 7:14-16 together... What does this tell us regarding how we approach God, and the kind of relationship He desires to have with us?
 - How can this look in your daily life?... *Talk about it.*
4. Is there anything from tonight's discussion that spoke to you personally? In what way(s) does it affect your life?
How will you directly and specifically apply it in your life today?

Take a few moments to share any Prayer Requests with the men in your Group. Write down any requests and commit to pray for one another throughout the week.

(It's great to know that other guys are praying for the important things in your life...and it's great to be praying for the important things in their lives!)

How do the **5 Principles for the Christian Man**, help equip you to apply this to your life?

Discuss your answer with your group...

- Prayer (*Relationship*)
- God's Word (*Knowledge and Understanding*)
- Worship (*Adoration*)
- Fellowship (*Encouragement and Accountability*)
- Service (*Caring for Others, Action to your Belief*)