



All Access: Close the Door (Pastor Paul Gillmore)

INTRODUCTION

All of us at times in our lives have gotten frustrated with God when it comes to prayer. So some of us quit praying. And others of us treat it more like a good luck charm—throw up a few prayers and hope it helps. But what if we have missed it? What if prayer isn't really about our needs, desires, wishes and wants? What if that is just a small part of it and we are missing the most important part?

DISCUSSION

How has God's unwillingness to answer your "bless me" and "help me" and protect me" and "give me" and "keep me" prayers frustrated you in the past?

So maybe we need to learn something about prayer...

Read Matthew 6:5-6: Jesus said **location matters**. Go into your room alone and close the door behind you. What impact would that have on your life and relationship with God?

Read Matthew 6:7: Jesus said **words don't matter so much** and **amount of time spent is not the most important** thing either. Describe how that changes your perspective on prayer?

Read Matthew 6:8: Jesus said **He already knows what you need before you ask Him**. You can cover the stuff you need, but He already knows about that stuff. Does that frustrate and confuse you?

So maybe this is what we are missing...

The reason we have been given the opportunity and the gift of prayer is because God has invited us into a relationship with Him characterized by intimacy and connection and that only happens when we close the door behind us and get alone with our Heavenly Father and simply talk and listen and spend uninterrupted time with Him.

And do you know what the reward is for praying that way...

An inner sense of peace that God is with you when He says yes or no or absolutely nothing!

MOVING FORWARD

Because the most important thing in your life is your personal, intimate relationship with

God and because everything else in life flows from that, commit to spending time with God with the door closed behind you at a specific spot and time each day.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

9"This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in Heaven... Matthew 6:9a

Community Group Leaders:

You can apply this same concept to marriage as Pastor Paul did on Sunday.

Please encourage everyone to participate in our 21 Days of Prayer initiative.