

# Prayer

(experiencing awe & intimacy with God)

desert breeze  
community church



Saturday & Sunday, March 14/15, 2015

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**“What Is Prayer?”** Job 1:9, 38:1-4, 40:3-5, 42:1-6

## WHAT IS PRAYER?

### It is an Instinct

- All human beings are made in the “image of God.” Bearing God’s image means that we are designed to reflect and relate to God. (Gen1:26-27)
- All human beings have some knowledge of God, an indelible sense that they need someone who is greater than they are. (Rom1:19-20)
- Prayer is seeking to respond and connect to that being, but it cannot be a real conversation because the knowledge of God is too general and unfocused.

### It is a Gift

- Since prayer is a response to the knowledge of God, it is profoundly altered by the amount and accuracy of that knowledge. (Jn17:3; 2Pet3:18)
- Christians believe that through the Scripture and the power of the Holy Spirit, our understanding of God can become unclouded. (2Tim3:16-17)
- Through the gift of being Born again (John1:12-13; 3:5) the Holy Spirit shows us that we can converse with God as His children (Gal4:5-6).

### It is a Conversation

- In the Bible, God’s living Word (Heb4:12), we can hear God speaking to us and we respond in prayer. Through the Word and Spirit, prayer becomes answering God—a full conversation.
- The Bible speaks of our relationship with God as knowing and being known (Gal4:9; 1Cor13:12).
- The goal is not just the sharing of ideas but also of ourselves. (Eph4:15; Book of Psalms)

### It is an Encounter

- Communication can lead to two-way personal revelation that produces what can only be called a dynamic experience. (Eph1:15-23; 3:16-19)

- Prayer in the fullest sense is a continuing conversation that God has started through his Word and his grace, which eventually becomes a full encounter with Him that fully transforms us.

### Case Study: Job 1:9, 38:1-4, 40:3-5, 42:1-6

- The more clearly Job saw who God was, the fuller his prayers became—moving from mere complaint to confession, appeal, and praise.
- In the end he broke through and was able to face anything in life. This new refinement and level of character came through the interaction of listening to God’s revealed Word and answering in prayer.
- The more true your knowledge of God, the more fruitful your prayers become, and the more sweeping the life change.

But God spoke audible words to Job.

We have something better, an incalculably clearer expression of God’s character. (Hebrews 1:1-3; John 5:39-40)

### Growing Notes

- 1) How would you define prayer? What are your thoughts and feelings about prayer being awe and intimacy with God? When was the last time you experienced awe and intimacy with God? Explain.
- 2) What does it mean that prayer is “an instinct” (Gen1:26-27; Rom1:19-20)? Why do we need more than an instinct to have a conversation with God? How is prayer profoundly altered by the amount and accuracy of our knowledge of God (Jn17:3; 2Pet3:18)? How is prayer “a gift” from God (Jn1:12-13; 3:5; Gal4:5-6)?
- 3) Prayer is “a conversation” with God that involves knowing and being known (Gal4:9; 1Cor13:12). Explain. What does it mean that prayer is not just sharing our ideas but ourselves (Eph4:15; Book of Psalms)? What is “an encounter” with God?
- 4) Read our case study: Job 1:9, 38:1-4, 40:3-5, 42:1-6. What happened when Job more fully saw God? What kind of a break through did Job have? What impact can listening to God’s revealed Word and answering in prayer have on our lives? What do we have that is better than what Job had (Heb1:1-3; John1:1-14)? Pray.