



**"INTIMACY" // Matthew 6:9-13**  
Scott Farmer // August 1-2, 2015

**Opening Remarks**

Prayer is communion with God. Words can help, or not. Emotions can help, or not. Other people can help, or not. Prayer is where and when you meet with God ... and know it. Actually His presence is inescapable! Prayer is how we hear, see, speak, sit silently, shout at, cry to, plead with, praise, commune with God.

Jesus was really good at prayer. He lived consciously with God, his Father, all the time. His first disciples were riveted by watching him pray. Finally they pleaded with him to teach them to pray like he did [Luke 11:1].

I have often wondered why the prayer he gave them is called "The Lord's Prayer" instead of "The Disciples' Prayer" since he told them to "pray this way."

Now, I realize that he actually invited them, and us, into his personal prayer life. He invites us to pray like He does and in conscious communion with Him as we come to His father and our father.

[Read that brief paragraph again. It is bigger than you think!]

Into that prayer we will enter in a few moments. But first,

**Warm it up**

How fluent are you in the language of prayer?

- a) Like a tourist in a foreign land, I can get my basic needs met. Don't ask me to hold a conversation.
- b) I can understand others, but not speak the language myself.
- c) I can read the simple stuff and make simple conversation if people speak slowly.
- d) It has become very familiar. I slip into it frequently and naturally.
- e) Other

### Talk it over

- 1] Why does Jesus invite us to pray to "Our Father in heaven"? What does that imply for our relationship with God, Jesus, other people?
- 2] "hallowed by your name" What does that mean? What does praying that do?
- 3] "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."  
What does this mean? Why would we want to pray it?
- 4] "Give us today our daily bread" What does this mean? Why would we want to pray it?
- 5] "Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors" Why is forgiveness so important? Why does Jesus urge us to "look both ways"? What's the connection between the two directions of forgiveness?
- 6] "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one" Why is this prayer so important for us?
- 7] Go back through each phrase and try to connect each one to a prayer or event in Jesus' life as recorded in the gospels [you Bible veterans in the group can really help here]. The point is to see that each of the petitions Jesus teaches his disciples comes right out of his own relation with his Father! If you are successful in this exercise, you will see that Jesus is actually inviting us into his prayerful communion with the Father.

### Work it out

- 7] Which of these themes in prayer is easiest for you? hardest? Most natural? Not so much?
- 8] How could these themes of prayer help you pray for specific situations or relationships you face this week?

### Wrap it up

- 9] Try using the pattern and themes of our Lord's Prayer to join Him in prayer [intimacy] as you face a challenge this week, even before tomorrow night.

### Pray it through

Finish your time together by standing in a circle praying [slowly] the Lord's Prayer. As you pray it, think of all the insights you have heard or voiced during your discussion together. I expect the words will really burst afresh into your heart. You are praying with Jesus!