

Pray #4

Surprising Prayer



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Part of Connect Group Questions

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This week's teaching urges us to set aside any reluctance we may have to pray, and replace that reluctance with an eager joy in listening to our Father and conversing with Him about everything in our lives. No wonder the writer of Hebrews encouraged "let us then **with confidence** draw near to God's throne of grace" (**Hebrews 4:16**). *In your Connect Group, let's explore this further.*

GETTING STARTED

Years ago, Pastor David knew a woman named Nancy who was extremely conscientious about everything she did as a Christian. Careful, obedient, highly disciplined personally. She was always doing, and yet never satisfied that she had done enough. Her mind always clouded with self-condemnation. One day he asked her, "Nancy, when God thinks about you, does He smile? Or does He frown?" How do you think she replied?

"He frowns," she said, without a moment's hesitation.

Why do we believe God thinks poorly of us? What are some of the reasons behind this (e.g., experiences in background, etc.)?

If you struggle with any reluctance to pray, where do you think that reluctance comes from?

IN THE WORD

If we are "in Christ," then when God thinks about us, what DOES he think? Answer this question from what you discover in the following passages:

According to 1 John 3:1-2, God thinks I am ____ .

(OK...so according to Matt 19:13-14, how eager is God to be with us?)

According to Hebrews 2:10-13, God thinks that I am ____ .

According to 1 Peter 1:3-5, God thinks that I am ____ .

According to Ephesians 1:3-9, God thinks that I am ____ .
(how many things can you find here? :)

According to **Ephesians 2:4-10**, God thinks that I am ____ .

So...what did you discover about what God thinks about you, because you are IN CHRIST? *Identify the insight above that gives you the greatest encouragement to eagerly pray.*

Is it any surprise, then that Jesus himself calls us to be close to Him, every day – **read together John 15:12-17.**

MY LIFE - OUR MISSION

We are now 4 weeks into our PRAY Summer '18 series

- A confused world truly *needs a church that prays* for all the people around them (**1 Timothy 2:1-7**)
- A growing disciple *regularly engages in confessing prayer*, seeking to walk in the light with the Lord (**1 John 1:5-2:2**)
- Under pressure from the challenges of the world, *regular prayer deepens our walk with God* (**Daniel 6:1-23**)
- Our Father's invitation is to replace any reluctance in prayer with joyful eagerness in His presence (**John 15:9-11**)

Growing in eager prayerfulness just could be one of the great outcomes of this summer for you personally...and for the team which is Christ Community Church!

Take some time to pray together, eagerly, in your Father's presence!