

INTRODUCTION

- * Our spring week of Prayer & Fasting is coming up at the end of March ... March 25-29
- * We are setting aside our study of Matthew's account of the ministry of the Messiah in order to spend six weeks considering some of the Biblical instructions and illustrations regarding prayer.
- * Our focus on prayer cannot be overstated. It is one of the primary injunctions given to the church. Consider some of these passages which we will look at further during the course of this study.
 - Matt 6:5-9 Three times Jesus presents the assumption that His followers will pray and twice He gives an injunction/command for them to pray
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17 Paul commands believers to "pray without ceasing."
- * Today we begin to look at the importance of prayer in the life of the believer, and the church collectively, by considering the privilege of prayer.
- * First, we must ask the question, "What is prayer?"
 - Prayer: "A reverent petition made to God, a god, or another object of worship. ... An act of communion with God, a god, or another object of worship."
 - Communion: "The act or an instance of sharing, as of thoughts or feelings. Religious or spiritual fellowship."

Prayer is _____ with _____ ... in _____!

INSTRUCTION**I. A CONSIDERATION OF WHO GOD IS**

A. His Ex _____: He _____!

- * cf. Genesis 1:1; Psalm 90:1-2; Romans 1:18-21; Psalm 19:1-4; Hebrews 11:6

B. His Ex _____: He _____!

- * cf. Isaiah 43:10-11; Isaiah 44:6-8; Isaiah 45:5-6; Isaiah 45:18-22; Isaiah 46:9; 1 Cor 10:19-22

C. His Ex _____: He _____!

- * Psalm 139:1-12; 147:4-5; Luke 12:6-7; Psalm 62:9-11; Romans 1:20; Matt 19:23-26; Jeremiah 32:17-19

II. A CONSIDERATION OF WHO WE ARE

A. Our Re _____ by God

1. WE ARE C _____ BEINGS (Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 2:7; Psalm 100:3; Psalm 8; Psalm 144:1-6; Psalm 39:4-6)
2. WE ARE S _____ BEINGS (Genesis 3; Romans 5:12; Romans 3:23; James 2:10; Romans 6:23; 1 John 1:8-10)
3. WE ARE P _____ BEINGS (cf. 1 Peter 1:3-12; Psalm 103:8-18)

B. Our Re _____ with God

1. WE ARE THE S _____ (cf. John 1:11-13; 1 John 3:1; Romans 8:15-16; Ephesians 5: 1, 8)
2. WE ARE THE B _____ (cf. Ephesians 5: 22-25; Revelation 19:6-7; John 3: 28-29)

Prayer is a _____ of my _____ with _____

INTROSPECTION

- * WHAT DOES YOUR PRAYER LIFE REVEAL ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?
- * HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR PRAYER LIFE? ... HOW WOULD GOD DESCRIBE IT?
- * ARE YOU WILLING TO COMMIT YOURSELF TO SPENDING MORE TIME WITH THE LORD?
- * IS THERE A NEED TO CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK ... AND THEREFORE ACT?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

It may be helpful to re-read the passage before the discussion.

- * How does our "individual" relationship with God affect us as a "church"?
- * How should the privilege of our relationship with God affect our community?