

THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

What is prayer? The most basic definition of prayer is that it is communication with God. In other words, we talk to him. He is our Father and he desires for his children come to him. Listen to these verses from men who knew how to pray. "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of him. Therefore brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus...let us draw near to God with a sincere heart with full assurance of faith..." (1 John 5:14-15 & Hebrews 10:19 & 22)

One thing that I have learned, true communication does not happen if you are intimidated. It doesn't sound like John or the author of Hebrews (who many believe is Paul) are very intimidated. Why? They know who God is. Our Father loves to talk and he loves to listen. What good would it do if he made people afraid to come to him? Do you approach people that you are afraid of? Only when you have to. That's not how our Father is. He made the way possible so that we could come to him. And not just to come, but to draw near. That means to be up close and personal. James tells us that if you come near to God, he will come near to you (James 4:8). Wow! Isn't that cool? Did you ever come near to a person and they backed up like you had bad breath? Come on! Sure you have. But our Father turns to us with a smile on his face and draws right up close to us and wants to hear what we have on our minds and in our hearts.

Talking takes time. Did you ever talk to someone who is in a hurry? You may get a few words in but you sure don't want to bother them or make them late for where they are heading off to. Guess what? God has time. He made it. He can make it slow down. He actually has eternity in his hands. So don't be all in a hurry when you go to him. He is taking the time for you, take some time for him. Iron out a good half an hour a day just for him. Hey, don't you like to talk to your best friend? If you had the best dad in the whole wide world, would you be too busy to spend a little time with him? What is so all fired up important anyway? Where are you always running off to? My goodness, you would think that you were the president of the United States. Oh, ok, mom's are busy too and dad's got work to do and youth got tunes to listen to, homework to do and friends to chat with. And of course, there are the Eagles...

Here is a novel idea. We can do all those things and talk to God too. It's just a matter of time and timing. Jesus said, go into your room, close the door and pray (talk) to God... (Matthew 6:6). Make a date. Take the time. Find a place. Close the door or for heaven's sake someone will interrupt you. And talk to God. Why do we make things so complicated? If you get into the habit of making time to talk to the creator of the universe, you will be the happiest person on the planet he created. God likes happy people. Happy people connect with him. Well, enough talk, let's do it! See ya later!