



WEEK 7

Pillar #3 - Prayer

As we look now at the third pillar of our church, we jump over to the book of Hebrews. Rich in Old Testament references and referring often to the sacrificial system, Hebrews demonstrates that Jesus – surpassing angels, Moses, and the Old Testament sacrifices – is the ultimate fulfillment of the Law. In light of this reality, we are drawn to run to Jesus in prayer, recognizing his greatness and his intimate knowledge of us including our frailties. As our drill deeper in these truths and we grow in our faith, we increasingly realize our profound need for prayer. Maturity, in other words, leads to even more prayer!

THE SCRIPTURE

EPHESIANS 6:18-20

¹⁴ Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

WE PRAY IN RECOGNITION OF OUR NEED AND DEPENDANCE UPON THE LORD, AND OUR CONFIDENCE IN HIS POWER TO ANSWER.

LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS: WEEK 7

OPENING QUESTIONS

1. Which is easier for you, to read your Bible or to pray? Why?
2. What kinds of things can surface to keep you from speaking to people you love dearly?

DIVING DEEPER

3. Walking carefully through these verses, summarize each characteristic you read about Jesus in bullet form below. Of the list you've created, which resonates with you most, and why?
4. If one of these characteristics were suddenly NOT true, what would that do to your prayer life?
5. How would you explain the truth in verse 15, that Jesus can "sympathize with our weaknesses?" Does this mean he "understands" or tolerates our sin?
6. How does the fact that Jesus faced the same temptations help us? What can we learn from his example? How does that compel us to pray to him?
7. Can you recall a time in your life when the Lord answered your prayers and gave you grace in a time of great need? How can recalling that compel you to pray even more?
8. Why do you think it is so easy for us to feed into ourselves for great lengths of time (i.e. be around friends, be entertained, play sports, etc.) and so difficult for us to pray for even short periods?
9. What kinds of messages are we ultimately communicating as individuals and as a church when we resist prayer in our lives?

10. Considering the passage as a whole, how would you interact with this statement:

“The purpose of prayer is to get things from God.”

11. Have you lost confidence in prayer because of unanswered prayers in the past? Why does God not answer some prayers? Are there some prayers that you have prayed that you are now glad God did not answer?

12. Practically speaking, how can you approach “the throne of grace” and draw near to God? How can we encourage others to do the same?