

Why Pray? The Struggles, Joys, and Power of Prayer

How difficult is it for you to find the time for prayer? When you do get to prayer, do you often have an agenda? Is it difficult to find the time to listen for His still small voice? In this workshop, we will consider the conundrum that comes with the desire to have a rich prayer life, but the struggle to see it happen. And we will learn some helpful strategies for overcoming and delighting in His presence.

Ann Pritchard Blaser has led women through Bible Study Fellowship International for thirty years, teaching Scripture classes for women and training leadership groups. Her work now consists of mentoring and advising other women who are teaching and training leaders in Bible Study Fellowship. She is responsible for visiting classes and observing the training and teaching taking place and for giving encouragement and shepherding to the teachers. She is involved in her church through discipling, teaching, and writing training materials. Ann is married to Bill, and they have two children and two grandsons.

Introduction

- I. Our Access
 - A. Hebrews 4:16
 - B. Hebrews 10:19
 - C. Principle: The believer is welcomed into the presence of God, but He changes us from the inside out.
 - D. Daniel 9:23
 - E. Application Question: What do you believe God thinks when He sees you coming to Him in prayer?

- II. One Barrier to Prayer
 - A. Quote: J.D. Greear says the sign that you are operating in pride is prayerlessness.
 - B. Daniel 4:37 ESV “Those who walk in pride He is able to humble.”
 - C. Principle: The sign that you are operating in pride is prayerlessness.
 - D. Application Question: What do we say to God when we are ready to let go of our pride?

III. Praying God's Words Back to Him

- A. Daniel quoting from Jeremiah
- B. Principle: Praying God's Word back to Him offers us power that we lack on our own.
- C. II Timothy 4:7
- D. Jeremiah 32:40
- E. Application Question: How have you seen God fulfill His promises for you? Did you recognize them as fulfilled promises at the time?

IV. The Best Bent

- A. We are not programmed for silence
- B. Quote: Spoken prayer will not reach its potential unless it is grounded in listening prayer.
- C. Quote: The Spirit's quiet whisper bids me bow before Your throne. Till my heart's deepest yearnings are the echo of Your own.

VII. Praying Aloud

- A. Singing, crying, dancing, walking, or driving...swimming laps?
- B. Principle: Praying out loud brings clarity of thought.
- C. David's prayers
- D. Psalm 27:1-3, 7
- E. Application Question: How would praying out loud change your prayer life?

VIII. Group Prayer – A.C.T.S.

- A. Quote: Intercessory prayer is “love on its knees” > H.E. Fosdick
- B. Adoration
- C. Confession
- D. Thanksgiving
- E. Supplication
- F. Principle: Group prayer thrives with a structure.
- G. Application Question: How do you lead group prayer? Brainstorm

IX. The Struggle to Pray

- A. Paul calls prayer “a struggle” Romans 15:30
- B. Romans 15:30-32
- C. Jesus, in the Garden
- D. Several common errors about prayer
- E. Praying in Jesus’ Name
- F. Colossians 3:17
- G. Colossians 3:23-24
- H. Principle: Prayer is the single most effective thing that we can do

We will end by praying together in group prayer