

Prayer: A Dialogue with God

Jesus taught His disciples to pray. This would indicate that prayer, at least in part, is a learned discipline. To the degree that any human is engaged with God, every feature of our soul is at play: the mind, the emotion, and the will. Prayer allows a believer to reach into the depths of himself and disclose to God what He already knows about us: our sins (in prayers of confession); our fears and sorrows (in prayers of lamentation); our joys and thanksgiving (in prayers of adoration and praise). Prayer not only allows one a growing awareness of God and His work in our lives, it is also a gateway to self-awareness.

Jerry Root is an Associate Professor of Christian Education at Wheaton College and serves as the Director of the Evangelism Initiative. Jerry is a graduate of Whittier College and Talbot Graduate School of Theology at Biola University; he received his PhD from the Open University. Jerry is the author or co-author of numerous books on C.S. Lewis, including *The Surprising Imagination of C.S. Lewis: An Introduction*, with Mark Neal, *C.S. Lewis and a Problem of Evil: An Investigation of a Pervasive Theme*, and *The Soul of C.S. Lewis: A Meditative Journey through Twenty-six of His Best Loved Writings*. Jerry is the co-author of *The Sacrament of Evangelism* and co-editor, with Wayne Martindale, of *The Quotable C.S. Lewis*. He also teaches graduate courses (MA in Evangelism and Leadership Program) and undergraduate courses (Christian Formation and Ministry Department) at Wheaton College. In addition, Jerry has been a visiting professor at Talbot Graduate School of Theology and Biola University from 1990 to the present. He and his wife, Claudia, have four grown children - all of whom are married - and thirteen grandchildren.

I. Jesus's teachings on prayer as a learned discipline

II. Engaging the mind, emotion, and will in communion with God

III. How prayer reveals our true selves to God

IV. From rote recitations to genuine intimacy with God

V. Embracing Intimacy in Prayer

VI. Acknowledging the vastness of God's mystery

VII. How prayer reveals new dimensions of God's character and love

VIII. Reflecting on Prayer's Purpose

IX. Inviting engagement