

Small Groups @ TBC Sermon Discussion Notes

Date of Sermon: November 13th 2016

Speaker: David Lawrence

Title: Encounter 5: Prayer

Introduction: In some form or another, we always pray when we gather as church. Often these are led from the front, sometimes we are all invited to join in and we shouldn't miss the fact that many of our songs are in fact prayers (Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me: Come Lord Jesus, pour out your Spirit we pray; Let your glory fall in this room... etc etc!). This session offered five foundation stones for effective prayer, which are applicable to when we pray together and also to when we pray alone.

Review: Invite one or more who have heard the talk to give their own brief review.

Read: The readings are found in the discussion points below.

Reflect:

- **FEET:** Read Exodus 3:5. Shoes off, signifies the approach of a servant to a Master, and also the vulnerability of a human before God. How does recalling where we are standing, help us orientate ourselves in prayer?
- **FATHER:** Read Matthew 6:9 & Psalm 103:13,14. How does the invitation to address God as 'father' transform our praying. List as many ways as you can think of. Are there any possible dangers of thinking of God as our father when we pray? What can we do about those?
- **FAITH:** Read Hebrews 11:1. What is faith and how do we pray *in faith*?
 - Read Matthew 17:19-20. What does this passage teach about the importance of faith in our prayers? (*notice that it is the person praying, not the sick person who is required to have faith in this passage*).
 - Read Luke 17:5. How does our faith grow?
- **FEELING:** Read Psalm 84:2. Many recorded prayers in Scripture reveal the longings of the pray-ers heart. Biblical prayers are more often heart-cries, rather than a formal recitation of words. When have people in the group prayed with a 'yearning' heart? What motivates our 'heart and flesh' to cry out to God in prayer? In our gatherings, how can we help one another engage our *hearts* in our prayers?
- **FIGHTING:** Read Ephesians 6: 12-13, 18. Paul's instruction to 'pray in the Spirit at all times' follows his teaching about the spiritual war that we are engaged

Leaders: feel free to be selective and creative with your use of these notes.

Don't feel you have to use all of the material, but
do try to keep the shape of Review – Read – Reflect – Respond
and **DO make room for the 'And Finally' questions!**

Thornbury Baptist Church:

Following the Way of Jesus: Loving God - Loving One Another - Loving Neighbour & World

in. Every prayer of faith is contributing to the battle for the answer to that prayer - even if we don't feel we are doing 'spiritual warfare', we are! How does the image of participating in a long-term war of attrition affect our prayers?

And finally:

As you conclude, ask each person:

- What is the main thing you are taking away as an action point?
- How can we pray for you?
- Is there anything we can check on next time we meet?

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