

PRAYER

Prayer is defined by Webster as “A supplication or expression addressed to God.” Jesus told us how to pray. In Matthew 6:6 Jesus says “Go into your room and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” I pray daily and often. Those tiny prayers offered up for ourselves and others are heard just as well as the prayers at the beginning or end of the day. Sometimes I think my prayers are too rote, that they do not express the wonder of prayer. That we have a God that loves each and every one of us and will listen to our prayers is a wonder and a miracle from our maker. I remember standing at a beautiful spot in Austria and staring in wonder and awe at the view and my prayer was one of gratitude for how beautiful God had made the world and that I could be in that time and place and see the magnificence of that scene. Or the first time I saw my children and grandchildren and great grandchildren and my gratitude at the miracle of birth. I need to thank God for the miracle of each day that is given me. For the wonder and magnificence of his love, for where he has placed me, for the journey that has been given to me and even for the hard things. For those who are gone but left me with their love and the memories of the times we spent together. I recall making decisions when a teenager that changed my life and looking back, I know that it was not my words but the words of my brother that strengthened me and gave me the resolve to choose a good path. God gave me that gift. God gives us each the gift of prayer. What a powerful gift! Jesus told us how to pray and this prayer is used whenever we gather to worship.

Matthew 6:9-13 This, then is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one. (NIV Study Bible)

Lord, we thank you for the gift of prayer. We thank you for each day, for the beauty in a sunrise and a sunset. For the miracle of birth and the wonder of life. We thank you for those who are in our lives, for those who touch our lives and hearts with your love, may we reach out to others with that same love and understanding. We ask Lord that you be with those who are suffering illness and grief, that they feel your healing touch. Be with our Pastor and bless his ministry as he brings us your word and your comfort. Be with our Staff and Leaders, bless them in all they do. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Grace Epperson