

Introduction: What Is Prayer?

OK Prayer: Session 1

QUESTION: What is your first memory of prayer? How old were you?

❖ *Prayer is coming into God's _____ to do _____ with Him. (Rev 22:3-4)*

God reveals Himself through:

- 1) _____ (Ps 19:1; Rom 1:20)
- 2) Human _____ (Eccl 3:11; Ac 17:23-27; Rom 2:14-15)
- 3) _____ (Dt 29:29; 2 Tim 3:16)
- 4) Person & work of _____ (Lk 24:25-27; Jn 1:18, 5:39)
- 5) Person & work of the _____ (Jn 14:26, 16:7; 1 Cor 2:10-13)

❖ *Prayer is the first action of _____, answering God according to the _____ of who He is. (Ps 27:8)*

❖ *Prayer is an intentional _____ towards God, as a _____ to His revelation and His invitation.*

The Sermon on the Mount: MATTHEW 5 & 6

GREEK: *hupokrités* (noun): a stage-player, actor, pretender

❖ *Prayer is the closest activity we have now to the _____ we will have for eternity.*

❖ *Prayer creates _____ for God in our world.*

(Additional references: Ex 2:23, 25)

❖ *Prayer must be:*

- _____ : speaking to God as He truly is about life as it truly is
- _____ : bringing God into every part of our daily lives
- Grounded in a _____ relationship

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER THOUGHT / GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. On a scale of 0-10, how satisfied are you with your prayer life? Name ONE thing you want to improve about your experience of prayer.
2. What is the biggest problem that hinders prayer for you?
3. Have you ever felt prayer (either from others or your own) was just a performance? If so, why?
4. Pastor Martyn Lloyd-Jones says, "Prayer is beyond any question the highest activity of the human soul. Man is at his greatest and highest when, upon his knees, he comes face to face with God."¹ How does this quote make you *feel*?
5. Dr. Jones also says, "Everything we do in the Christian life is easier than prayer."² Do you agree? Why do you think prayer is so difficult?

¹ D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Studies in the Sermon on the Mount*, vol. 2 (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1960), 45.

² Ibid, 46.