The Many Sides of Prayer

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INTRODUCTION

- Talking is not just a form of communication, it's a primary form of communication and a necessary part, not just of communication, but of our interaction with one another in our lives.
- Talking is not just a form of communication, but it's a form of bonding. Talking and being heard.
- This morning I want to talk about talking. Not just talking, but being heard.

1 Prayer Has a Lot of Parts

Psalm 48:1; 1 John 1:9; Philippians 4:6–7

- Adoration should be a part of our prayer. We hold God in reverence. That's fundamental to our relationship to God.
- Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God in his holy mountain.
- If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- Pray without ceasing, and in everything give thanks. God is to be praised. He is to be thanked for all that He has done for us.
- The S is supplication. I can ask God for things for me, but also for others. They can be spiritual or physical.
- In everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your request be made known to God.

2 Prayer Also Takes Many Forms

Romans 15:30–31; Daniel 6:10; Nehemiah 2:4

- Prayer is not just some cookie-cutter conversation that we have with God, that has to follow some formulaic ritual or rite.
- Prayer should never be offered just because it's supposed to be offered. It can be purposeful.
- My prayers can be organized, scheduled, planned, even a habit, but can still be meaningful communication to God.
- Number one is this was a spontaneous prayer. I don't think Nehemiah had this one scheduled.
- Prayer can be both private and public. We pray in our assemblies.
- Private prayer is a time for me to speak to God one to one.

3 Prayer Is Talking to God

- Prayer is talking to God. Don't ever forget that.
- You are speaking to the creator of this universe. Treat him with the adoration and reverence he deserves.

- Don't let your reverence and your fear of the creator of this universe threaten or hamper your communication.
- You're talking to God. So talk to him. Be honest with him. Be open with him.

4 Prayer Has Many Answers

1 John 5:14–15; 2 Corinthians 12; Acts 12:1–5

- Sometimes God answers yes. if we ask according to his will, he'll grant our prayers.
- Sometimes, though, he says no. God has the right to say no. And secondly, God always knows more and knows better than I.
- He didn't answer their prayer the way they ask it. He answered it a different way.
- There's another way that God can answer prayers. And that is silence.
- Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.
- Sometimes I'll pray and I'll pray and I'll pray. And all I hear is silence. But I don't stop praying.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Would you make that request to God today? Do you need to come back to Him and render obedience to Him through your confession and return to Him?**

MY NOTES