

NewSpring Church Personal Study Guide

Now What? — Week 2 — Prayer

Through Jesus Christ, we have been given complete access to God. God wants to have a continuing relationship with us. That's why prayer is such an important part of the Christian experience. Through prayer and bible study we can maintain a power connection to our Father.

Matthew 7:7-12 says,

7"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

9"Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 11If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! 12So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

- Access to God is an amazing privilege. Why do you think so many people don't make use of the access that they have?
- What is your motivation for praying? What should our motivation be?
- What do you get out of praying?
- Is prayer difficult for you? What makes it difficult?
- Why do you suppose your prayer is not always answered the way you hoped?
- 1 Timothy 2:5 says, "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." How did Jesus make God accessible to us?
- Psalm 37:4 says, "Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart." It seems that delighting yourself in the Lord is the key to getting the desires of our heart. What does "delighting yourself in the Lord" mean?

Matthew 6:8 says that God knows what you need before you ask. We don't have to think of God as a vending machine. God is our Father. "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! (1 John 3:1) As a Father, God knows what is best for you. As a Heavenly Father, He is orchestrating events to bring about Glory for himself and ultimate good for you.