

WHAT IS PRAYER
EPHESIANS 6:18-20
1-7-24

I. PRAYER – An expression of our dependency upon God. It reminds us who we are (dependent) and who God is (independent).

*Ephesians 6:18-20- "...praying at **all times** in the Spirit, with **all prayer** and supplication. To that end, keep alert with **all perseverance**, making supplication for **all the saints**,¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak."*

II. FOUR "ALLS" OF PRAYER

1. Prayer is at ALL times

~ Perpetual communion and union with God.

John MacArthur - "Praying at all times is to live in a continual God consciousness, where everything we see and experience becomes a kind of prayer live in deep awareness and surrender to our heavenly father"

2. Prayer is ALL different types

~ Our communication with God should be diverse.

3. Prayer is with ALL perseverance.

~ Persisting in prayer is more for us than it is God.

4. Prayer is for ALL saints

~ We NEED one another's prayers...just like Paul.

~ Praying for one another is unifying.

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you most from the message this week? What challenged the way you think about prayer?
2. Why do you think that prayer is under-utilized by Christians today? What does this under-utilization communicate about these Christians?
3. What are some reasons why people might avoid prayer?
4. How do our prayer lives affect our view of God?
5. What are some things that you have “persisted in prayer” for over the years (salvations, people, ministries, etc....)? What has encouraged you to continue praying for these things for so long?
6. Why is persisting in prayer more about us than it is about God?
7. How does it encourage you that Paul requested prayer for proclaiming the Gospel?
8. What are some ways you can prioritize prayer this year in your family?

PRAYER SPOTLIGHT

- This year as we focus on prayer, we are going to be highlighting various things that we can be praying for as a church in our community groups.
- This week we pray for our MCC Missionaries – David & Ashley Coffee and their children Emma and Abigail (Campus Crusade)