

Meeting God on the wings of prayer

About our series:

In my heart:

In the past five years God has moved on my heart in such a way that its hard to explain. It is very deep and very personal. But, insomuch as it has changed my life I am going to attempt to share it with you.

I believe, I trust that God leads me and sometimes to places in my life I would never had dreamed of, expected or desired. But, each place finds opportunity and is for his glory.

Lately, in my heart, it seems like a gravitational field pulling me to God. What is causing that? Have I reached some new spiritual high that has created a desire in me to seek God out? Or has God looked on my life and decided to draw my heart close to his? I hope both.

The brotherhood:

I look across our land and I see the saints everywhere struggling. I see children growing up and leaving the treasured faith in droves. I see Christians acting in ways that are so far from God's design. What really scares me is that it doesn't seem to bother us.

My soul cries out to God, I think there is a great problem today in our brotherhood. Its called spiritual drought.

- Our religion is a ½ mile long X ½ mile wide
- *And only ½ inch deep.

Where this series will take us:

-I want you to know up front that I can't tell you how to pray.

- There are some basics of prayer like:
 - Requests for needs
 - wishes, wants and desires
 - intersession for others
 - confession asking for forgiveness
 - Praise of the father
 - asking for guidance
 - Thanksgiving
 - Worship

-All these are important fundamentals but it isn't our aim

-Jesus taught his disciples some very basics about prayer but through his own prayers we see and understand much more. It's the much more...that is what lays beyond the fundamentals that I hope to talk about during this series.

Plainly stated, I have one purpose in mind during this series and it is to create a thirst in you that can only be quenched by a deep relationship with God.

Introduction:

Quickly, I don't feel comfortable in sharing some of this but for only for God's glory.

One night I went to bed and I had the most unusual dream. All of a sudden I found myself sitting down. It was fairly warm but I was in the shade looking out across a desert region of some kind. An incredible peace filled my every breath. Its weird to say but there wasn't any hurry and time didn't seem to matter. I felt my hand and the texture that surrounded it was sand. I was sitting in the sand under the canopy of a tent. The sand made for a soft place to sit and I was comfortable. There in the shadow of my dream I could feel the gentle warm breeze and the sound of the canvas tent flapping in the wind brought a refreshing sigh that I hadn't felt..., well ever. I sat there for the longest time just listening to the peace and knowing that there was, for some reason no other place that I would rather be. Breathing each moment in and inhaling deeply. Then I turned my head and saw through a fold in the doorway that nothing was inside. Then it hit me, fear 2immediately struck me motionless. Just as quickly joy, excitement and the deepest reverence of my life filled my mind as I came to the knowledge that I was leaning against the Tent of Meetings and God was inside. I sat there peaceful, just happy to be so close to God.

TS Do you know that God wants a close relationship with you?

I. Lets start with the idea that prayer is about relationship

-When I say relationship what comes to mind? **ANSWER**

-Men?

-Woman?

-Relationship is an intimate connection between two people

-The idea of marriage really helps us to understand the deep Connection, communication, desire for one person to another.

-The idea of a mom and dad reminds us of the deepness through a never ending love, a feeling of safty.

-The idea of a best friend, someone who can't wait to see you.

-Someone who never gets tired of you.

***What an awesome truth it is that God desires to have a relationship with us.**

- Often times we don't even desire a relationship with God:
 - Our prayers are as dysfunctional as our lives.
 - We try to use prayer as a tool.
 - Example fulcrum point and lever arm
 - To get what we need or want
 - * And then have the gull to be upset if we don't get what we have asked for.
 - We use prayer as dumping place for our thoughts that we are tired of
 - A way of self purging
 - A simple venting
 - We use prayer as a way of clearing our consciences
 - We use prayer as a way of removing frustration.
 - A manipulation to get what we want
 - *HEAVEN FORBIDE SUCH A HEART.
 - *Are there other ways we use prayer improperly?
 - *All these things do not characterize relationship
 - ...They characterize selfishness.
 - ...I think God's idea is that if you want to be selfish you can do it on your own.

- Brethren prayer is sweet Communion with God.
 - Communion has the idea of fellowship
 - 1 John 1:7 "if we walk in the light as he is in the light we have fellowship with one another..."
 - Its about getting to know him and sharing with him on a deepest of personal levels.
 - Telling him your failures
 - Asking his advise
 - Prayer is listening to God.
 - In the Lords supper we see Jesus sharing with his disciple an intimate moment. Truly a family time. When there is difficult times behind them and difficult ones in front of them. A time of sharing, a time of Love, a time of relationships
 - Is it enough to live life aware there is a God but never becoming personal with him. Could you live your life without ever experiencing a one on one with the creator of all things.
 - Would anything change in your life if you could get into a close relationship with God?
 - It can happen to you

-Let's Pray "Open the eyes of our heart Lord.
 -Help us all God to get personal with you
 -Help us to find your presence

-Lead us there father

*Draw us father into a relationship with you where you are that is so deep words can't describe.

***SONG "Listen to our hearts" Page 810**

***Prayer is:**

Living life excited for every chance to talk to him and listen to him

-Like a puppy glad to see its master.

-Our lives should be a continual wagging prayer to God.

- 1 Thess. 5:7 "Pray without ceasing."

-Like Tevye in fiddler on the roof.

-Prayer is a open communication with God

-One that does an (AMEN)

God says:

-Deut 4:7 "What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the Lord our God is near us whenever we pray to him?"

*Somehow I think if we truly understand the awesome thing that happens when we pray we would be the most prayerful people on this planet.

*We must let God lead us into his presence

II. Our first step in having a relationship with God **is balance.**

-Example the wheel on a car

-Out of balance

-rough ride

-wears out other parts on car

-generally hard on car and driver

-Spiritual lives must have balance too.

-prayer without bible study is a rough ride

-Some people talk and won't listen

-bible study without prayer is a rough ride

-Some listen and won't talk

-bible study and prayer without meditation is a rough ride.

-Let's make a different kind of wheel.... A Pie Chart wheel

***Draw one on chalk board the balance of our lives onto a pie chart**

-Listening to God (Bible)

-Talking to God (Prayer)

-Meditation (Thinking about it)
-Let the spirit lead you

-**Example**...Looking through a Pirates spy glass put a pie chart made of cardboard, with a hole in the middle over the end of the spy glass. Tell folks that if your using the spy glass to see God if your pie chart wheel is out of balance as it spins it obscures your view of God.

IV. The first step in meeting God is yours.

-James 4:8 “Draw near to God and he will draw near to you....”

-You can have a tent of Meeting experience, a closeness to God, when your ready

-Who would walk past the greatest of treasures and just leave it lying there?

Conclusion:

Read Psalms 42:1-11

SONG “As a deer pants for the water”