

## Connecting with God and Others

"This, then is how you should pray..."

(Matthew 6:9)

## Connecting with God & Others

### What is Prayer?

*"Prayer is simply conversing with God....talking to Him, listening to Him, being in His presence..."*

A good definition of Prayer is on page 27 of A Compact Guide to the Christian Life.

### Why Pray? or If God knows everything, He should already know what I want, so why pray?

*When you love someone, you want to be with them.*

1. Prayer is an important way to spend time with God and get to know Him better.
2. We can experience God's peace thru prayer.
3. We get God's strength from it.
4. God guides us thru prayer as He brings us more in line with His purpose.
5. Prayer can release forgiveness in our hearts.
6. We grow in our faith & understanding of Him.

*Two things to remember:*

1. *Prayer is not trying to get God to agree with us.*
2. *Prayer is not like a slot machine, where you put something in, in hopes of getting something out.*

*God acting in your life is a process....it takes time.*

*One good way to begin is to start having regular quiet time with God.*

Lesson

## Connecting with God and Others

# The New Community (the Church)

The Greek word that is translated 'church' is 'ecclesia', and it means 'the called out ones'. Called out from what or to what?

Called out from a worldly system that denies the wonderful truth about Jesus Christ.  
Called to actively serve Jesus Christ thru serving the people in His community.

### *Who belongs to the Church or the Body of Christ?*

*1. Followers of Jesus - those who have placed their trust in Him.*

### *Some fascinating things about the Church or the Body of Christ...*

*1. The Church is not an organization, but an organism ( a living thing)....1 Cor 12:12-14,18,20 & 27.*

*2 In the church, there may be some Methodists, some Presbyterians, etc., but no Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, etc.*

### **Why do I need a Christian Community?**

*A. To help you become more like Christ in your character & conduct. This can only be done in the context of relationships, and other believers can help us in this maturing process.*

*B. To help you walk thru life's problems, so that you aren't alone.*

*C. To help you do the things that God has gifted you to do (1Cor 12:7-11).*

*D. For corporate worship, prayer & teaching. These are catalysts for learning and change in our lives.*

"Let us not give up meeting together,  
as some are in the habit of doing,  
but let us encourage one another...  
and all the more as you see  
the Day approaching."

(Hebrews 10:25)