

Pray Life

March 29, 2020



Purpose: To help participants explore the potential of prayer to change their lives and the world

Focus text for this week: *John 11:1-45*

Related texts: Luke 18:19, Philippians 2:12, Romans 8:6-11, Micah 6:6-8

Tom Harpur says, *“Nowhere does the Bible suggest prayer is to be used as a substitute for personal effort, serious thinking, or positive action where it is needed. It is right to pray about everything. [But] there is a time to stop praying about someone or something and to act.”* (p. 216)

- ☞ How do you think God answers prayer?
- ☞ What is the relationship between prayer and personal responsibility?
- ☞ What kinds of things can you do to work toward the fulfillment of your own prayers?

“One of prayer’s most effective, non-verbal expressions...is in some form of positive action: in one’s work done well, in deeds of kindness and compassion, in greater commitment to social justice.”

Think about the work, tasks, or relationships that occupy your days.

- ☞ If you were to approach all of these things as a form of prayer, how would it concretely change your own behavior in these settings? (Be specific) Do you think other people would notice? How do you think they would respond?

“The true test of the integrity of any worship, whether private or public, is what it leads to (or doesn’t) in terms of changed lives for the worshipers, and changed conditions for the poor, oppressed, and the abandoned.”

- ☞ If you applied this test to your own worship and prayer life, how do you think you would do?
- ☞ If you could change one thing about your life or the world, what would it be? What would be one step you could take toward achieving these goals?

Opportunities to respond:

- 1) Take one of your daily tasks and dedicate it to God. Do the best you can, pay attention to every detail. This may be an act of kindness and compassion, an action towards correcting some social injustice or a task that does not directly impact any other person.
- 2) Take some aspect of the texts for today or some other text that is meaningful to you and ask yourself how you would put that text into actions. Develop a plan and see it through.
- 3) St. Augustine said, *“You have made us for Yourself, and our souls are restless until they find their rest in You.”* If you feel you are too tired to pray at the end of a very long day, offer a heartfelt sigh to God. What happens when you do this?