



Week 3: Thy > My

We often hear people talk about a “personal relationship with Jesus,” but what does that mean? We know what personal relationships with other people look like, but can we really have that kind of relationship with God? If we build relationships through conversations, then prayer is perhaps the most powerful relationship-building tool we have to connect with God personally. But what if prayer isn’t what we’ve always thought it to be? What if it’s much more simple than we’ve made it out to be? How would our prayer lives change if we talked to God about what he wants *for us*, not what we want *from him*?

Discussion Questions

1. Can you remember the first time you prayed? What was the situation? How did it make you feel? Did you continue to pray that way?
2. How would you categorize your prayers? (Bless me/Guide me/Thank you/Protect me, etc.)
3. Has talking to God through prayer come easy for you or has it been difficult for you to pray and feel connected to God?
4. **Read Matthew 6:5–13.** Take a few minutes and rewrite Jesus’s prayer (Matthew 6:9–13) in your own words.
5. How does the prayer you wrote down compare to the prayers you usually pray? What’s different? What’s the same? What changes do you think you could make to your prayers in light of Jesus’s example?
6. Adam said, “Prayer is an opportunity to direct your life toward God’s will for you.” That’s a different way to think about prayer. Describe the difference it would make to think in terms of connecting with God’s will for you instead of willing God to do something for you. What would you expect from your prayers?

Moving Forward

Prayer can be a true speed bump for a lot of people as they try to connect with God. It’s ironic that the one thing we can do to directly communicate with God is one of the most difficult things for some of us to engage in. What if we took the challenge this week to *pray for ourselves last*? What if we talked to God about *him* instead of about *us*? Try it this week and see what difference it makes in your prayer life.