

Let's Discuss...Prayer

PART 2_How Has Your Prayer Life Grown?



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Scriptures mentioned:

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Matthew 6:33 ESV

...your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Psalms 23:4b NIV

*Our Father in heaven,
may your name be kept holy.
May your Kingdom come soon.
May your will be done on earth,
as it is in heaven.
Give us today the food we need,
and forgive us our sins,
as we have forgiven those who
sin against us.
And don't let us yield to
temptation,
but rescue us from the evil
one.*

Matthew 6:9-13 NLT

He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

Romans 8:32 NASB

Episode Summary

In this episode, we talk together about how our prayer lives have grown over time. Niki & Tito share how they felt like they didn't know what they were doing in their early years of prayer. Niki got around older Christians who she could learn from about prayer, and Tito found his prayer life grew when he decided to make his faith his own. We also chat about Jesus' example in the Lord's Prayer and how it can serve as a guide for us as we learn to pray.

Let's Discuss...

- Has your prayer life evolved over the years? What did it look like before and what does it look like now?
- Niki talks about how both she and Tito prayed about marrying each other. He sensed peace about it, and she felt the Holy Spirit led her to Matthew 6:33, which she originally interpreted as a "no!". She later found clarity about what this verse should mean to her - that if she prioritized God first, blessings would be the fruit of that relationship.
 - » When we pray, how can we develop an ability to hear from God, while holding loosely to our interpretation of what He may be saying to us and allowing Him to bring clarity over time?
 - » Hint: One key trait that helps us with this is the same one we talked about in **Let's Discuss...The Bible Part 7_ Interpretation of Scripture.**
- Do you feel confident that your faith is something that you consciously chose on your own?
- Have you ever compared the way you pray to the way you've heard others pray? How did this affect you?
- Niki talks about how shepherds would often mark their staff after they overcame an obstacle as a reminder of what God has brought them through. If you think about your own prayer journey, what markers can you reflect on? Can you remember a time when you prayed, and felt like you got an answer? Or a sense of peace, reminder of something helpful, etc...?
- Grace mentions that when she prays, she believes that whatever she has asked for is already "done". Many Christians agree with this sentiment based on verses such as Mark 11:24.

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Mark 11:24 NIV
 - » Do you share the same belief as Grace's when you pray? Why or why not?
 - » How do we understand Mark 11:24, considering that sometimes our prayers are not answered in the ways we thought they would be?
- Greg talks about gratitude, and how it should be a main feature of our prayer lives. How can we be more intentional about cultivating gratitude in our everyday conversations with God? What effect might this have on us?
- The Lord's Prayer has served as a guide for Christians learning how to pray throughout the centuries. Has this prayer influenced or shaped your own personal prayer life? Are there forms or patterns of prayer that help connect you to God?
 - » Consider gathering some friends for **The Prayer Course**. This will take you on a journey through the Lord's Prayer with 8 weekly sessions including videos, study notes, and prompts to get you started.

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Let's Pray...

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Matthew 6:9-13 NLT

- Pray through the Lord's Prayer. This ancient prayer given to us by Christ Himself, to connect the Holy Spirit within us with our Father in Heaven. Take your time with each sentence and even consider going through it twice, adding your own sentiments as you go through it the second time.

Let's Go Deeper...

- **"Staffs in the Bible"** via Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer [article]
- **The Prayer Course** by 24/7 Prayer [online course]