

## Four Pillars: Prayer 2 - Relationship First

### *The 4 Pillars*

Acts 2:42 - They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to **prayer**.

### *Definition of Prayer*

The basic definition of prayer is simply "communication with God."

*What is communication? This comes from the Latin word "communicare," which means "to share." It means a sharing of information, ideas, feelings, and news. It is a two-way process.*

Exodus 33:11 - The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend.

*Prayer is an uncomplicated, conversation with God. No need for fancy words or phrases, just open, honest, two-way communion with God...*

### *A Relationship First*

Gen 3:8 - Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

*Adam & Eve had regular communication with God, but never had a "prayer request." With no sickness, no needs, no worries, and complete utopia, what did they talk to God about? They simply talked as friends...*

James 2:23 - And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend.

*God desires relationship, even friendship, with us; but that can only be accomplished through prayer...*

### *The Mind of Christ*

Phil 2:5 - Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

Matt 13:11 - The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them.

John 15:15 - I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

*We must have the mind of Christ, not just through scripture, but the current will and ways of God... Only through our prayer and relationship with God can we truly "know him" and know His ways and His will...*

John 5:19 - Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.

Acts 3:6 - Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.

*It's only by being close to God that we can see and know what He desires, and can then go out and truly do the work of the kingdom. We can't give to others something we don't have ourselves, and we get it through prayer!!!*

## *To Know Him & Obey Him*

Phil 3:10-11 - I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

*We must have the heart of Paul, to know Christ, not just in power, but also in the suffering. God should be able to share His desires, and even His pain with us, just as true friends are able to do...*

1 John 2:3-6 - We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. 4 The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: 6 Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

John 14:15 - If you love me, you will obey what I command.

John 15:14 - You are my friends if you do what I command.

*God requires action in our relationship with Him. The only thing we have to offer is our free will, and that's why He says if we love Him, we should keep His commands...*

*That includes scripture, but also the commands He is giving us now, in prayer...*

## *Action Items*

### **Develop Personal Prayer:**

- 1) Build a prayer life that is more than praise & worship or asking for needs to be met
- 2) Develop a lifestyle of prayer where you can talk to God at any time, like talking to a friend on the phone

### **Know God's Voice**

- 1) Jesus said "My sheep know My voice" (John 10:27); let's develop the ability to know when God is speaking to us
- 2) Get an accountability partner that can help confirm when God is speaking
- 3) In prayer groups, allow for time of prayer, revelation, and confirmation. This helps us know God's voice and also stay protected in case what we're hearing/feeling is not God, or from God but needs further clarification

### **Obey God**

- 1) As we see things in scripture, we must listen and obey God's voice
- 2) As we hear God's voice in prayer, or through others, we must obey
- 3) Remember, God will not contradict Himself, so confirmation is important and nothing should violate scripture