



How Do We Pray?
4th in the Draw Near Series
John 15:1-8
November 23, 2025
Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction: In this message, we learn the Christian principles and practices of prayer.

1) Our prayer life should be guided by five principles:

- a) Pray to the Father.
- b) Pray through the Son
- c) Pray in the Spirit
- d) Pray with God's Word.
- e) Pray from your position as a child of God.

2) Our prayer life can be supported by five practices:

- a) Admit that prayer is a duty and a discipline.
- b) Think of prayer less as "asking" and more as "walking."
- c) Set aside time regularly to pray.
- d) Prayer should be a balanced diet in dimensions and directions.

(1) Pray the acronym "ACTS:" Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication.

(2) Pray the "3 Directions:" Upward, Inward, and Outward.

- "Upward" – Praise, to God for who he is and thanking God for what he has done (person/work).
- "Inward" – Personal, about who we are and what we've done (self-examination/confession).
- "Outward" – Petition, about our needs and for the needs of others (supplication/intercession).

e) Establish a manageable strategy for prayer.

Response: Hope Church, let us be a people who pray!

Sunday Text Questions

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Read the text aloud and discuss any significant observations or issues that need clarification together.

- 1) What was your earliest exposure to Christian prayer, and how have you learned about prayer in your Christian walk?
- 2) How is prayer - the regular practice and the experience – connected to Jesus’ command to “remain in him, as I also remain in you” (v. 4)?
- 3) How does v. 7 make more sense when it is viewed in light of the Bible’s definition of prayer that we have used for this series: *“Prayer is the act of asking God to do what he has already promised to do.”*
- 4) Read the list of 5 guiding principles for a prayer life in the sermon notes. Which one of those is the most helpful to you, and why?
- 5) Read the list of 5 supportive practices for a prayer life in the sermon notes. Which one of those is the most helpful to you as you consider (Lord willing!) a stronger commitment to regular and consistent prayer?
- 6) Exercise #1: Spend some time praying and putting into practice either the acronym “ACTS” or the “3 Directions” prayer strategy mentioned in the sermon notes.
- 7) Exercise #2: Close your small group gathering by praying to the Lord for a more vibrant prayer life. Pray for yourself, those in your small group, and all of Hope Church.

Further study this week: Passages related to the message of this week’s text: Galatians 2:20 (Mon); Revelation 3:20 (Tues); Romans 12:1-2 (Wed); Acts 2:42 (Thurs); Mark 1:35 (Fri).