

Ellen Johnson
Sunday, October 6, 2024
Sermon



Talking With God

Is there something you want to pray about? Who do we turn to? We might turn to a spouse, or a friend, or a counselor. OR... you can talk to God. I talk to God frequently every day. I thank God if I see a flower in bloom. I talk to God if someone I know needs help or guidance, or healing. I sometimes thank God for the simple daily things. I go through an intersection with a green light, or if I find my way to where I am going without getting lost. I talk to God when I am entering church because we have the freedom to attend a church we have chosen. I think these things because I believe God is listening. I guess it's called Faith. It is so easy in our busy lives to fail, to notice the beauty of our Earth. The sunshine on your face, blue skies, the green grass, it only takes a second to notice these things. But saying thank you to God is such a privilege. After all, we are, children of God. And what father isn't pleased to hear a thank you from his children.

The Lord's Prayer, which the disciples were taught in Luke 11:1-4 and Matthew 6:9-13, as we repeat it weekly in church, is a prayer, but a prayer is also a private conversation with God. You can pour out your heart to God without speaking a word. He knows our thoughts, but we know that just because we pray for something specific, that doesn't mean it will give us an immediate answer, or the answer we expected. Remember, God is in charge.

Previously, I have spoken to you about my preferred Bible reading, which is Psalm 139 verses 13-17, it's written by David. Let me read it to you.

“For it was you who formed my inward parts. You knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works that I know very well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was being made, in secret. Intricately, woven in the depths of the Earth. Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me. When none of them as yet existed. How weighty to me are your thoughts, oh God! How vast is the sum of them! I try to count them—they are more than the grains of sand. I come to the end, and I am still with you.”

I find great comfort in knowing that no matter what is going on in my life, God is in charge. As I have aged, I have begun to understand why things happened in my life. Not everything was pleasant, or nice, or painless, but it had the purpose of making me who and what I have become. And each of you has your own path in life. Some days are filled with joy. Some with pain. Sometimes, our lives seem unbearable. In those times, we become stronger and able to deal with adverse events. Sometimes, by going through those dark times we are showing others that are also in pain, that they are not alone and neither are you!

Isaiah 40 verse 29, says, “He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.”

And Psalm 55 verse 22, “Tells us to cast our cares on the Lord and he will sustain us. He will never let the righteous be shaken.”

Just talk to God. Nothing is more important than building a relationship with God. And focus on your blessings instead of dwelling on your problems and your past. Don’t try to relive the past, it is over with. And be aware that perhaps the things we are praying for are the wrong things. As hard as it is to admit sometimes, we do not always know the correct things for ourselves or others. We each have been given our own path to follow.

Just talk to God about whatever you have on your mind. It may feel like a one-sided conversation, but our God is all-knowing and all-seeing, and always forgiving. So, you are never alone. He is always with you.