



We are all wired to _____ communicate _____.

We _____ struggle _____ to pray.

When we struggle to pray, our _____ relationship _____ with God struggles.

Prayer is a _____ conversation _____ with God.

“You can talk to God the rest of your life and never feel connected to Him.” — Andy Stanley

How do we pray?

1. Find a _____ quiet _____ place _____.

“When you pray, don’t be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get.” *Matthew 6:5*

“But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.” *Matthew 6:6*

2. Be _____ authentic _____.

“When you pray, don’t babble on and on as the Gentiles do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again.” *Matthew 6:7*

3. _____ Don’t _____ give _____ up _____.

Luke 18:1-7

What is your next step in prayer?

One Year New Testament Devotionals

Small group discussion questions related to the weekend message will resume in September during our next 10-week group semester. Small group registration is now open. Until then, use these One Year New Testament questions to discuss with your small group or answer individually.

Devotionals

“Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.” (Psalm 37:4) We are consistently offered ways to achieve happiness through the satisfaction of physical desires. Unfortunately, this kind of happiness is always fleeting and never fulfilling. In contrast, the apostle Paul found his joy in the midst of difficult circumstances because he understood that true joy comes from his relationship with God. What does it mean to delight in the Lord? It starts with spending daily time in the Word, learning from the scriptures and applying them to our lives. If you find yourself wrestling with your identity, take time to listen to your Heavenly Father, and He alone will give you the desires of your heart.

Sunday, September 2 — 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

“God’s power is working in us.” (6:7) What an impactful statement! In what way is God working through you? To what lengths did Paul go to show his love for the Corinthians? What can you learn from Paul’s example that will help you endure suffering for the sake of the gospel?

Monday, September 3 — 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:4

Why does Paul warn Christians against being bound together with unbelievers? How do you need to purify yourself from things that have contaminated your life? How can you maintain your relationship with non-Christians without tightly binding yourself to them? What can you do this week to show your reverence for God?

Tuesday, September 4 — 2 Corinthians 7:5-16

Why did Paul have such confidence in the Corinthian Christians? What relationship is there between adversity and spiritual growth? How should we respond when someone points out a wrong in our lives? Why is it not enough just to feel sorry for your sins?

Wednesday, September 5 — 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

What is your idea of generosity? What example of generosity have you seen recently? What end does God want our charitable giving to achieve? In what ways besides giving money can you be generous to others in the name of Christ this week? “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21)

Thursday, September 6 — 2 Corinthians 8:16-24

When is it most difficult to try to please everybody? What should be a Christian’s attitude regarding sacrificial giving to the church? What can you do to guard against a begrudging attitude when you offer your resources to the Lord?

Friday, September 7 — 2 Corinthians 9:1-15

Why did Paul begin this passage with a discussion of farming? (9:6) What promise does God give to believers who give generously? What does this passage tell us about the relationship between Christian faith and giving? How can you remind yourself of God’s generosity the next time you are tempted to hold back from giving cheerfully?

Saturday, September 8 — 2 Corinthians 10:1-8

What is it like to have people talk about you behind your back? What was the source of Paul’s authority and influence over others? (10:1) How did the spiritual warfare that Paul fought, and the spiritual weapons that he used, differ from ordinary warfare and weapons? What is one specific way you can show the meekness and gentleness of Christ in one of your important relationships this week?