



Part 1: Just Push Pray

So what's the purpose of prayer? Is it to get God to do what we want him to do? Or is it something else? Many people see prayer as a button to be pushed...but what if it's so much more than that?

Scripture: Matthew 6:9-13, Luke 11: 1-4 NIV

Bottom Line: Prayer is not a button to be pushed, it's a relationship to be pursued.

Discussion Questions

1. Of all the frustrations associated with prayer that Carey outlined in the message, which do you identify with? What makes those aspects of prayer frustrating for you?
2. Many Christians say prayer 'works'. When has it not 'worked' for you?
3. Have you ever treated prayer like a button to be pushed? Have you been satisfied with the results? Why or why not?
4. Read through the Lord's prayer as it's compiled below (it's the composite of two scripture passages). We'll be spending most of this series in this prayer, but as you read it together as a group, what, if anything, do you find surprising about the prayer?

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the Kingdom, the power and the glory forever, Amen.
Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4 (NIV including footnotes)

5. Prayer is not a button to be pushed, it's a relationship to be pursued. Do you think God created prayer to be much more than you've experienced so far?

Moving Forward

This week, pray to God at least once a day using the Lord's prayer as an outline for your personal prayer. As you pray, stop thinking of prayer as a button to be pushed. Think of it as a relationship to be pursued.

And remember, God is pursuing you perhaps even more than you're pursuing him.

Changing Your Mind

"Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." Luke 11:1 NIV