



“Learning to Listen” - Discussion Questions

1. What is prayer?
2. “Prayer is not asking for what you think you want, but asking to be changed in ways you can’t imagine” – Kathleen Norris. Agree or disagree?
3. What is the purpose of prayer? Why do it at all?
4. What stops you from praying? What keeps you praying?
5. How does prayer work?
 - Does our prayer change God’s mind?
 - Is there a cumulative effect if more people pray?
 - Does our behaviour alter the effectiveness of our prayer?
 - Do we need to ask forgiveness for each sin to be forgiven?
 - If God already knows everything (including what we need) why bother a) telling him things and b) asking for stuff?
6. What ways of praying have you experienced? Are there any wrong ways of praying?
7. “In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.” Rom 8:26-27 (NIV). What is Paul talking about here?
8. What do you think Jesus was doing when he ‘prayed all night’?
9. What does Paul mean when he says we should pray continuously? Is this possible?
10. Should you do something you can’t fully understand? Is that brave or stupid?
11. Does our understanding about the nature of prayer spring from our understanding of who God is?
12. Do you pray enough? How much is enough? Can you pray too much?
13. “There are more tears shed over answered prayers than over unanswered prayers”. -- Teresa of Avila Agree or disagree?
14. What does it mean in practice to wait on God? To ‘look to the Lord and his strength, seek his face always’?
15. What practical application or idea are you leaving with from today’s Exchange?