



## Part 2: Intimacy with an Invisible Dad

### INTRODUCTION – Why Pray?

Perhaps we are meant to ask for the things God already wants to give us in order to raise our conscious minds to an ongoing awareness of the relational nature of reality.

Why do we ask our children to ask politely for things we already know they need?  
Why do we teach them to say please and thank you?

#### Anger – Review and Response...

Matthew 5:21-22

Anger is the emotion associated with judgment; therefore it is appropriate for God and inappropriate for us. (**Colossians 3:6-8**)

- We are to be slow to become angry (**James 1:19-20**).
- If/When we do become angry, we are to get rid of it as quickly as possible (**Ephesians 4:25-32**).
- Instead, we are to follow the way of love (1 **Corinthians 13:4-7**) and the fruit of the Spirit (**Galatians 5:22-23**).
- Segments of the conservative evangelical church have modelled anger as the emotion of Christian righteousness, and of this we must repent.

**BUT – Jesus got angry.**

**BUT – Anger is a natural emotional response.**

**BUT – If I can't help it, how can it be sin?**

**BUT – Anger motivates us to do good things.**

### LOOK TO THE BOOK – Ask, Seek, Knock

Matthew 7:7-11

### TAKEOUT – I'll Have That to Go Please

#### TAKEOUT #1 – God ALWAYS Answers Prayer

God is always relating to us, whether we sense it or not. We are surrounded and penetrated by his presence. But sometimes God answers us with a no, or a wait, or – are you serious? The fact is, sometimes young children DO ask for a snake or a scorpion. And when they do, a loving father doesn't give it to them. Instead, he helps them recalibrate their desires. Our desire should be for more of God and his kingdom (**Matthew 6:8-10; 31-33; 1 Timothy 6:3-11; Hebrews 13:5**).

#### TAKEOUT #2 – God Questioning

Our search should be for God, for his person, for a greater vision of his heart and a clearer understanding of his will for our lives (**Luke 11:13; Romans 8:13-16**). Prayer may be more than this, but it cannot be less.

#### TAKEOUT #3 – Spiritual Growth is a Dance of Partnership with God

As God's image-bearers, the Bible is very inclusive of the ideas of God's sovereignty and our freedom of choice. God answers our requests and opens when we knock. We seek and we find. Calvinists and Arminians alike must put a biblical worldview ahead of their theological arguments.

#### TAKEOUT #4 – God is Good. We Are Evil. Jesus is...?

Note that in comparison to God, Jesus includes everyone as "evil". We are all sinners – therefore we are broken and in need of healing. Yet, also notice that Jesus never includes himself in that category. He also distinguishes between "your" father and "my" father, never including himself completely with us by calling God "our" father. Jesus is the bridge, the unique one, the mediator who is perfectly human and divine, bringing us together with our Creator.

### CONCLUSION – Asking for More of God

Luke 11:13

### HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

#### Warming Up...

1. What is your prayer life like? How do you pray and what do you tend to pray about?
2. After reviewing this week's teaching, talk about what most encouraged, inspired, or confused you.

#### Look to the Book...

3. Read **1 Timothy 6:3-11**. A) What verse or idea stands out the most to you? Why? B) Paul mentions people who argue about words here and in **2 Timothy 2:14**. What do you think he means? Can you think of some examples of this within the Christian community? What are some approaches we could take to avoid arguments about words? C) How might **verses 6-10** inform how we pray (also see **Hebrews 13:5**)? D) Have you experienced prayer patterns within the Christian community that are contrary to this biblical teaching? E) Jesus taught us to seek more of the Holy Spirit (**Luke 11:13**). The Apostle Paul tells us to be "filled with the Spirit" (**Ephesians 5:18**). As you ask for and receive more of God's Spirit, how do you think this will influence your heart and your life?

#### So What?...

4. Take time to pray through the Sermon on the Mount (**Matthew 5-7**). Read a verse and pray about it, then move to the next and so on. In this way, we're asking, seeking, and knocking about the things that Jesus says are important to God's heart. After spending time asking, seeking, and knocking in this way, come back together to talk about how this may influence your usual prayer life.
5. Close by praying for God's Spirit to fill you afresh.

The Meeting House | Sunday, October 11, 2009 | Bruxy Cavey

Notes are available online at [themeetinghouse.ca/teaching](http://themeetinghouse.ca/teaching)