

TEACH US TO PRAY by Rev. Greg Moore

JESUS WAS PRAYING IN A CERTAIN PLACE. WHEN HE FINISHED, ONE OF HIS DISCIPLES SAID, "LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY, JUST AS JOHN TAUGHT HIS DISCIPLES." LUKE 11:1

EVERYBODY PRAYS LIKE SOMEBODY.

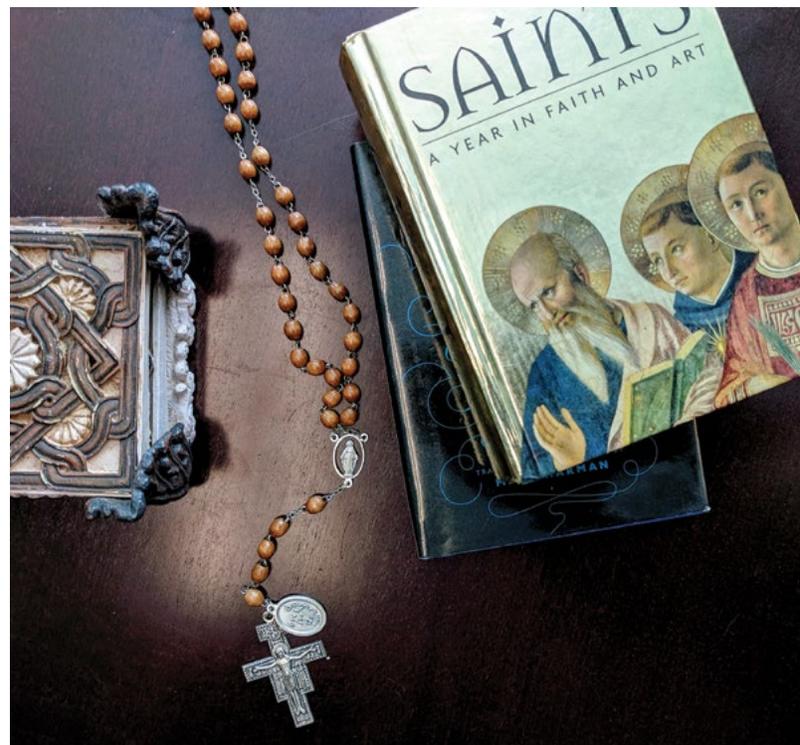
Even as I survey my own prayer life, I can hardly bow my head without hearing the voices of those who taught me to pray weaving their particular cadence and intonations into my own...Ms. Ginger Thomas, whose soft, steady voice weekly led me through the Lord's Prayer in Sunday School...Rev. Cliff Gilmer, whose deep baritone was the first I heard voice anger in a prayer, as if God could handle that, too...Ms. Willie Mae, whose South Carolina low country accent made God seem close, accessible, simple, with us... Rev. Vivian Fowler, who picked up a prayer book and effortlessly joined our hearts and minds together with all those who prayed these same prayers in season and out, thus teaching me that prayer isn't always an effort of creating holy spontaneity, but can shape our spontaneity towards holiness through discipline.

And on and on it goes. I simply don't know how to pray a single prayer that isn't like theirs.

Jesus prays like Mary, "Let it be with me according to your will" and his disciples pray like him, "thy will be done" and on and on it goes right to this very day.

Prayer is our most concrete experience of communing with the saints. What's more, everybody teaches others to pray.

How we pray will shape the prayers of those around us, our children, our co-workers, our churches, our neighborhoods. Everyone teaches others to pray, either by example or by neglect thereof.



EVERY LIFE IS A CLASSROOM OF PRAYER.

In this newsletter, you will find stories of others teaching and learning to pray. This is, at heart, the work of worship. May the stories and lessons here encourage and strengthen your prayer life, and may Jesus continue to answer the request of the world through you, his body, as we teach and offer communion through the gift of prayer. ✚

TEACH US TO PRAY



REV. KYLE BURROWS
CROSSROADS NORTH

It is so easy for people with a consistent prayer routine to forget how foreign and confusing prayer can be for new followers of Jesus. In our discipleship course at Crossroads Church, we teach prayer as one of our core “Digging Deep” principles. We use the tried and true A.C.T.S. model of prayer: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication. It takes intentional effort to translate these church



concepts into approachable ideas, but the feedback has been positive. This well-rounded method of prayer allows us to enter into a meaningful dialogue with God. We practice reading a daily text, and then use the heart of the text to lead our prayer. Did you just read about forgiveness? Then adore God for the endless mercy we receive and confess the ways in your life that you are not forgiving. After

that, give thanks and make your requests to the Lord. Adding a minute or two of silence to close your prayer time is important in order to listen for any inspiration from God. No matter what model of prayer you use, it is important to give a written and concrete method of prayer so that others can start applying to their lives. So pick a method, make it a part of your life, then share the habit with others. ✚



RAFAEL MARTINEZ

Orar es hablar con Dios. El cristiano ora para tener una comunicación personal y directa con su creador, de esta manera podemos conocer mejor la voluntad de Dios para nosotros y esta espiritualmente más capacitados. En la biblia tenemos muchos ejemplos de oraciones, en diferentes circunstancias y momentos. Por lo que para orar solo tienes que abrir tu boca o tu mente y expresar tu amor y agradecimiento a Dios por todo lo que recibes, sea bueno o malo. Puedes expresar tus inquietudes y problemas, no para que Dios se entere, porque él lo sabe todo, sino para que él sepa que tu confianza y seguridad están en él. Puedes presentar la situación

de otras personas que necesitan que la misericordia de Dios llegue a sus vidas. Puedes también solo hacer silencio y tratar de escuchar en el interior de tu mente la voz de Dios a través de tus reflexiones. Puedes usar la oración para pedir a Dios que te de capacidades espirituales para servirle a él y a los demás con mayor efectividad. La oración es un arma con la que podemos enfrentar de nuestras debilidades, temores y alcanzar la fortaleza que viene de Dios.

To pray is to talk with God. The Christian prays to have a personal and direct communication with his creator, in this way we can better know God’s will for us which makes us spiritually more capable. In the bible we have many examples of prayers,

in different circumstances and times. To pray you just have to open your mouth or your mind and express your love and gratitude to God for everything you receive, be it good or bad. You can express your concerns and problems, not so that God finds out, because he knows everything, but so that He knows that your confidence and security are in him. You can present the situation of other people who need the mercy of God to come into their lives. You can also just make silence and try to listen to the voice of God through your thoughts inside your mind. You can use prayer to ask God to give you spiritual abilities to serve him and others more effectively. Prayer is a weapon with which we can face our weaknesses, fears and reach the strength that comes from God. ✚



RANDY EVANS
WALKING TALL WILMINGTON/THE FEAST GATHERING

In a world of uncertainty and chaos, why would someone experiencing poverty even care about praying? The concept of prayer could easily internalize into a way of bargaining with God and negotiating for a better outcome. Intercessory prayer could turn into a one-sided conversation, with the person begging or pleading for the crumbs

of a glorious feast everyone else seems to enjoy.

These are all realities for our community. Prayer can also be used as a weapon against them as a way to acquire food, warmth, or even basic health-care from some churches; many times the marginalized are forced to participate in spiritual

rituals to receive the basic necessities of life.

So how do I teach our community to pray? I focus on the idea of contemplative prayer which emphasizes being with God instead of using God as a means to an end. Our community has found God by sitting next to the Cape Fear River enjoying the sunset,

sharing a meal with each other, or simply taking a deep breath of fresh air. I tell everyone that prayer is more than just saying some words. Prayer is a way to experience the grace, peace, and newness of Jesus Christ by having an encounter with Him. While in the midst of chaos, how can you experience prayer through being present with God? ✚



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with your prayers for communion to be celebrated in new ways in their lives and in their communities.

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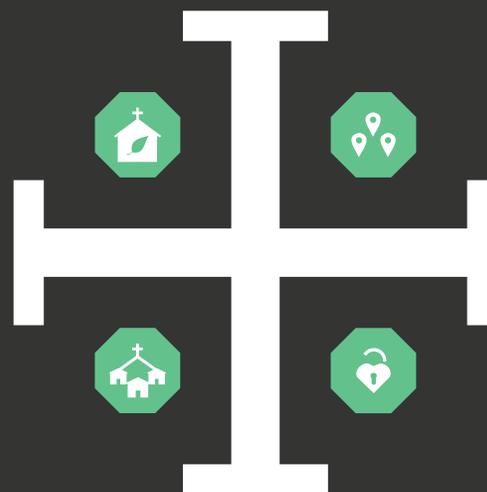
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An order of laity and clergy dedicated to embodying apostolic hospitality for new people to be gathered into communion with Jesus Christ.

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