

Series – Good Habits With Giving Christ More in 2024, part 6

Message Summary: Ainsley and I have been married over 41 years. We have developed ways of communicating with one another when things just aren't "clicking". Life gets busy and pretty soon we are simply living together not really connected to one another. Just like in marriage, **love is spelled TIME**. When it comes to our relationship with Jesus, the same principle applies. Prayer has been one of the greatest keys to staying connected to Jesus on a daily basis. It's not about any prayer formula. It's all about spending TIME in relationship! How do we do this? I am going to take the word TIME and use it as an acronym for the good habit of prayer.

The Good Habit of Prayer

T – TIME Colossians 4:2

- A. Choose a specific time.**
- B. Invest enough time.**

I – INTENTIONAL Proverbs 21:25

- A. Stop allowing your feelings to dictate your behavior.**
- B. Be intentional with your thinking regarding prayer.**

M – MOTIVES James 4:2-3

- A. Desire God's will above our own.**
- B. God's Word is the best prayer guide.**

E – EXPERIENCES Psalm 34:8

- A. Practice praying with others.**
- B. Practice watching for answers.**

LifeGroup QUESTIONS:

BEGIN IT- (5min) Praise & opening prayer.

OPEN IT- (10min) Share about your own habits / routines with prayer if you have any.
How has prayer changed with you over the years?

EXPLORE IT- (60min) Review Sunday's sermon outline and allow the group to share their notes and comments. Now answer the following questions:

1. Discuss John 15:5,7-8 and why remaining in Jesus is so important when it comes to effective prayer.
2. Discuss the significance of spending time in prayer. How much time is enough?
3. How do we need to be intentional with prayer and move beyond our feelings and wrong thinking?
4. How can we evaluate our motives when we pray?
5. What is the value in praying with others? If this is something that is difficult for some, spend time discussing why this is?

APPLY IT- (15min) What did God reveal to you in the sermon or among your discussion group? How will you apply this new understanding to your life?