

## Person of the Word

Over the next seven weeks the sermon series is going to be focusing on prayer. Our hope is that the sermons and our interaction over these sermons will lay a solid foundation upon which we can build for years and years to come. Though there are many types of prayer in the Bible this series will focus on specifically on supplication (i.e. making requests of God). Supplication is a risky type of prayer. We know if God answers our prayers . . . or not. At times this can open us up to deep disappointment. But since it is advocated everywhere in the Bible, so we must pursue it. In this study we begin by looking at the connection of being a person of the Word and prayer.

**Opening Discussion:** Complete the following: “My prayer life \_\_\_\_\_.”

### Read John 15:1-17

1. What is the setting of this passage?
2. What is the point of the metaphor that Jesus uses in this passage (i.e. the vine and the branches)?
3. What conditions does Jesus give for answered prayer (v. 7)?
4. What is the connection between being a person of the word and being an effective person of prayer? How does having Jesus' words abiding in us shape our praying?

Steve said:

I have purposed in my life and in my teaching to dwell primarily on the things about prayer that are crystal clear. I don't want to put my prayer life on hold until I get everything figured out; I want to press into the things that I know are true from Scripture. And so I invite you to join me in pursuing a life of prayer this fall. I'm not merely saying that I'd like you to show up and listen to some sermons on prayer; I'd really like you to purpose in your hearts to cultivate a life of prayer. We're really asking God to raise up a prayer movement here at Faith - that we would be "doers of the Word" and not merely hearers when it comes to prayer.

5. How do you feel about this challenge to cultivate a life of prayer?

6. Do you ever feel like you are putting your prayer life on hold until you "get everything figured out?"

Steve said:

Pick an issue or two for prayer that you really care about. What is it that keeps you awake at night? What is the most pressing issue in your life? You might want to focus on an area of fruitfulness Jesus mentioned in John 15.

- Perhaps there's an area of obedience that you need to cultivate; find relevant Scriptures and saturate your mind with them (ask a friend if you need help finding them). Cry out to God to give you the will to obey; pray that God would keep you from temptation; etc.
- Perhaps you're finding it hard to love someone close to you. Spend a month soaking in Scriptures that speak of Jesus' love for you. Read the Gospels and notice how Jesus loved people. Pray for opportunities to love others that same way.
- Pray for people who need Christ. In Romans 10 Paul said of his fellow Jews ". . . heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation. " Maybe you need to confess, "I don't really care about anybody but me (and mine)." Pray for compassion so that your heart will go out to people. Pray specifically for people who need Christ. Let your compassion fuel your praying.

7. What is an issue or two for prayer that you really do care about?