



Part 1: Me to God

Grant Fishbook, Teaching Pastor
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I know that I should talk with God out of:

Love

Devotion

More often than not, I talk with God because of:

Crisis

Desperation

Grant's Resolution:

I want to graduate beyond "help me, give me, bless me, and keep me safe."

*What if talking and listening to God
was as natural as breathing?*

Matthew 6:5-8

⁵ "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.

Obedience matters

Location matters

Motivation matters

⁶ But when you pray...

Obedience matters

...go into your room, close the door...

Location matters

...and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Motivation matters

⁷ And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.

Volume of words does not matter

⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Relationship matters

The reward is not getting what I want out of God.

The reward is getting what God wants for me.

Next Steps

One of the best ways to grow your prayer life is to “graduate” beyond praying for just your own needs and desires. Here at CTK there are several prayer teams you can be part of that praying for the church and for other individuals:

1) Pastor’s Prayer Letter

This weekly letter from Pastor Grant focuses on the “big picture” needs of the church. You can pray over these requests at any time, or you can become part of the 24/7 Prayer Team by signing up to pray at a specific day and time every week. Our goal is to cover every hour of every day. Find out more today at the Prayer Ministries table in the Commons or contact Diane (x231 or dianeh@ctkbellingham.com).

2) Prayer Army

CTK’s Prayer Army receives weekly requests that have been submitted by people in our congregation, and prays for these individual needs. Find out more about the Prayer Army today at the Prayer Ministries table in the Commons or contact Teresa (x227 or teresah@ctkbellingham.com).

Small Group Questions

- 1) Did you make any New Year’s resolutions? How is it going?
- 2) What word would you use to describe your prayer life? Vibrant? Personal? Dead? Routine? Other?
- 3) Regarding prayer, in this passage Jesus tells us, “Go into your room and close the door.” Do you think he really means it? Is that a hard and fast rule? Do you obey or find a loophole?
- 4) Grant talked about graduating beyond “help me, give me, bless me, keep me safe.” What other elements of prayer could stretch your conversation with God?
- 5) Where, when, and how do you pray? What would need to change for your prayer life to become as natural as breathing?
- 6) What do you need prayer for today?