

**"I CAN HEAR YOU NOW"**  
**Permission To Speak Freely, Part 1**  
July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010

If you evaluate most of your prayers, they're probably pretty much about you

Some have quit praying because they didn't get what they wanted

Others keep praying hoping to get what they want

If we are not careful, prayer can become something like a lucky charm

Sometimes we get confused regarding God's priorities in answering prayer

Some say the reason you don't get your prayers answered is because you don't have enough faith - that doesn't line up with what Jesus said

Luke 17:6 (NIV) "Jesus replied, 'If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea," and it will obey you.'"

What if how and why we've been taught to pray is wrong?

Just because you've been praying all your life doesn't mean you know much about it

**What Jesus Taught About Prayer**

Jesus first talked about where to pray

Matthew 6:5 (NIV) "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 men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full."

Their reward was to be seen by men

Jesus taught when you pray, get by yourself in a specific place

Matthew 6:6 (NIV) "But when you pray, go into your room, close the door..."

There is talk which deals with the chaos and circumstances of life; there is talk which deals with an intimate connection and relationship

You can talk to God all your life and never really feel connected to Him

Getting alone with God in your room helps to foster your relationship with Him

Matthew 6:6 (NIV) "...and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

"Reward" means to repay, to pay you back

Fortunately God doesn't give you everything you want from Him

Matthew 6:7 (NIV) "And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words."

God is not moved by the volume, quantity, or quality of your prayer

Matthew 6:8 (NIV) "Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him."

God says tell Me your needs, pour out your heart to Me, but let's not spend all our time together on that because I already know all of that – maybe there is something more to prayer

The most important thing in the world is your personal, intimate relationship with Jesus Christ because everything else Flows from that one thing

The "reward" is that inner sense of peace that God is with you - when He says yes, when He says no, when He says nothing

There is all the difference in the world between feeling guilty for something and feeling accountable to someone

God has given us the opportunity to move into a relationship of accountability with Him – the kind of accountability when God begins to communicate with you on a personal level

Matthew 6:9 (NIV) "[Jesus said] 'This, then, is how you should pray...'"

We'll never understand the fullness of who God is and all He wants for us if we randomly and occasionally, when there's a felt need, shoot up a prayer

The personal relationship happens when you go in your room, close the door, and let Jesus teach you what it means to pray

When your unseen Father sees you alone in private, He will Reward you

#### **My Next Step Today Is:**

- I will make some time this week to get alone with God, close the door & read Matthew 6:9-13
- I will memorize Matthew 6:6
- I plan to attend Class 101, New Hope's introduction class, on Sunday, August 8<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM
- I am interested in being baptized Sun, Aug 15<sup>th</sup> at the church's beach/baptism