

HOW TO PRAY

STAYING ANCHORED TO THE GOSPEL

**The cross is not an event to leave, nor a starting line,
but it is the path itself.**

-Kyle Strobel

Though the Gospel itself perpetually and eternally keeps us anchored in God's grace (**Hebrews 6.19, 20**), He gives us various means to keep us chained to that anchor. We could call this the difference between *union* and *communion*.

ABIDING IN THE VINE THROUGH PRAYER

**Prayer is about seeking God Himself.
He is the good we seek, not His answer.**

-Kyle Strobel

John 15.1-11 // Matthew 6.25-43

**I know now, Lord, why you utter no answer. You are Yourself the
answer. Before Your face questions die away.**

What other answer would suffice?

— C.S. Lewis

HOW TO PRAY AN ABIDING PRAYER

**When you pray, rather let your heart be without words,
than your words without heart.**

-John Bunyan

Matthew 6.5-15

Preach the Gospel to Yourself: Bring to mind the promises of God and various Gospel truths that will remind you of who God to shape your perspective.

Repent: Acknowledge where you've been doubting or believing lies and being in sin; remember the forgiveness of God and your adoption as you run to Him.

Ask: Ask God for new perspective and for the things you need. You'll notice after doing the above two, your requests will be different than before.

Yield with Thanksgiving: Surrender to God's will and ways, thanking Him that He's in control and will work all things for His glory and your ultimate pleasure.



NOTES:

Other Suggested Resources:

A sermon from Pastor Matt Chandler on "The Art of Prayer."
www.thevillagechurch.net/sermon/the-art-of-prayer/

Daily Devotionals:

Monday: Hebrews 6.19, 20
Tuesday: Ephesians 4.11-16
Wednesday: John 15.1-11
Thursday: Ephesians 6.18
Friday: Matthew 6.25-43
Saturday: Matthew 6.5-15

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

BAPTISM & CELEBRATION - JANUARY 5TH

Next Sunday, we will be having a **Baptism** after service as well as celebrating our **1 Year Anniversary** of being a church! Bring a picnic for you & your family, and celebrate with us in the grassy field. If you're interested or even considering being baptized, **Let Us Know Today** on your green Connection Card!

PRAY FOR OUR TRIP TO AFRICA

In two weeks, Pastor Jobey and Casey Barnes will be going to Zambia Africa to spend some time with our ministry partners Breath of Heaven & the children's village they oversee. Please keep them, BOH, and the trip in prayer. We will be posting some specific prayer requests on our website and Facebook page later this week, so keep an eye out for those. Thank you so much!

COMMUNITY GROUP SIGN UPS JAN 12TH

In 2 weeks, we will have info set up by the Connection Booth where you can meet the group leaders, ask questions and get connected. Community is an important vehicle that drives Life Mission Church (and will be highlighted in the last message of the Anchored to the Gospel series.)

JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL

Currently, we have our junior high & high school students stay in service with us each week. We're excited to announce we will be launching our junior high ministry (7th & 8th graders) sometime after the new year!

KIDS ON MISSION

Please log on to check out www.lifemissionchurch.com and click "Kids" at the top to read more about the vision and plan we have for our kids, including Pastor Jobey's heart and his walk through of our curriculum.

SAVE.

Jesus was sent to save. We have been saved to be sent. We are sent into our community to share the Good News that Christ came to save us, and we hope to see many who find new life.

EQUIP.

We want to equip those very people in the Word so that they can continue to grow as disciples of Christ. From our preschool to our adults, our passion is to see everyone equipped in the Gospel to live a life of freedom and joy.

SEND.

Lastly, we then want to see those equipped people sent into their community and world. From schools and playgrounds, to families and work places, we want to see people who are spiritual leaders in their life, showing people the truth of Christ's Good News.

CONTACT US:

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COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Read **John 15.1-11** and **Matthew 6.5-15**. What stuck out to you the most or was the most impactful from the message on Sunday or from these verses? _____

Explain, in your own words, what it means to stay anchored to the Gospel.

What happens when we don't keep ourselves secured to the Gospel? _____

Though we know we won't lose our union with Christ, we definitely miss out on communion with Him. This leads to us believing lies, leading us into hopelessness, depression, despair, worry, anxiety, sin, and all kinds of waywardness. Describe the difference between *union* and *communion*. _____

Now read **Ephesians 4.11-16**. How does the picture of an anchor fit in with this section of text, and how is that anchor secured to us? _____

When it comes to the main four elements of the Lord's Prayer (**Matthew 6.5-15**, Praise/Preaching the Gospel to Yourself, Repentance, Asking, and Yielding with Thanks), which do you normally start your prayers with? Does it depend on what you are praying for? _____

How does simply starting with recounting the truths and promises of the Gospel change the way you go to God in prayer? How does it change what you ask for? Or how you repent? _____

Look at these four elements again, and write out what could possibly happen with your prayers when one of these elements isn't present.

Preaching the Gospel to Yourself: _____

Repentance: _____

Asking: _____

Yielding with Thanksgiving: _____