

## Anchored Connecting with God in a Distracting World

Pastor Mark Lehmann

<sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death.

**Philippians 3:10 NLT**

<sup>5</sup> “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. <sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. <sup>7</sup> And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. <sup>8</sup> Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. <sup>9</sup> “This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, <sup>10</sup> your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup> Give us today our daily bread. <sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. <sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’ <sup>14</sup> For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup> But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. <sup>16</sup> “When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. <sup>17</sup> But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup> so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

**Matthew 6:5-18 NIV**

*“I discovered an astonishing truth: God is attracted to weakness. He can’t resist those who humbly and honestly admit how desperately they need Him! Our weakness, in fact, makes room for His power.”*

— Jim Cymbala

*“When God’s people pray and take the pains of earth to the doors of heaven. When God’s people pray, there is hope reborn, there is sin forgiven and miracles you can’t explain a way. When God’s people pray...”*

— Wayne Watson

- What Good Does Praying Do?

*"We are made in the image of God. Our inability to pray comes from the fall. Evil has marred everything. We want to talk to God but can't. The friction of our desire to pray, combined with our badly damaged antennae, leads to frustration."*

— Paul E. Miller

*"Praying exposes how self-preoccupied we are and uncovers our doubts.... after only a few minutes, our prayer is in shambles. Barely out of the starting gate, we collapse on the sidelines-cynical, guilty, and hopeless."*

— Paul E. Miller

- No More Cynical Prayers

<sup>17</sup> One of the men in the crowd spoke up and said, "Teacher, I brought my son so you could heal him. He is possessed by an evil spirit that won't let him talk. <sup>18</sup> And whenever this spirit seizes him, it throws him violently to the ground. Then he foams at the mouth and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast out the evil spirit, but they couldn't do it." <sup>19</sup> Jesus said to them, "You faithless people! How long must I be with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring the boy to me." <sup>20</sup> So they brought the boy. But when the evil spirit saw Jesus, it threw the child into a violent convulsion, and he fell to the ground, writhing and foaming at the mouth. <sup>21</sup> "How long has this been happening?" Jesus asked the boy's father. He replied, "Since he was a little boy. <sup>22</sup> The spirit often throws him into the fire or into water, trying to kill him. Have mercy on us and help us, if you can." <sup>23</sup> "What do you mean, 'If I can'?" Jesus asked. "Anything is possible if a person believes." <sup>24</sup> The father instantly cried out, "I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!"

**Mark 9:17-24 NLT**

- Taking One Step Closer

*"The reality is, my prayers don't change God. But, I am convinced prayer changes me. Praying boldly boots me out of that stale place of religious habit into authentic connection with God Himself."*

— Lysa TerKeurst

<sup>8</sup> Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.

**James 4:8 NLT**