

Bay City Wesleyan Church  
February 2, 2020

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Sunday Morning 02-02-2020

Series Big Idea and Invitation: It seems like most people pray even if they aren't particularly religious. But most of us struggle to pray. Ordinary people like you and I need all the help we can find. Let's smash our prayer struggles this year with a few simple exercises.  
<http://bible.com/events/7054201>

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[Image]

Our First Series of 2020 Starts Next Sunday

<https://imageproxy-cdn.youversionapi.com/320x320/https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/mushroom-event-images-prod/5722009-1576356534837.jpg>

Romans 12:1-2 NLT

<small><font color="#999999">1</font></small> And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.  
<small><font color="#999999">2</font></small> Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.  
<https://bible.com/bible/116/rom.12.1-2.NLT>

Luke 18:1-8 NLT

<small><font color="#999999">1</font></small> One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up.  
<small><font color="#999999">2</font></small> "There was a judge in a certain city," he said, "who neither feared God nor cared about people.  
<small><font color="#999999">3</font></small> A widow of that city came to him repeatedly, saying, 'Give me justice in this dispute with my enemy.'  
<small><font color="#999999">4</font></small> The judge ignored her for a while, but finally he said to himself, 'I don't fear God or care about people,  
<small><font color="#999999">5</font></small> but this woman is driving me crazy. I'm going to see that she gets justice, because she is wearing me out with her constant requests!'"  
<small><font color="#999999">6</font></small> Then the Lord said, "Learn a lesson from this unjust judge.  
<small><font color="#999999">7</font></small> Even he rendered a just decision in the end. So don't you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off?  
<small><font color="#999999">8</font></small> I tell you, he will grant justice to them quickly! But when the Son of Man returns, how many will he find on the earth who have faith?"  
<https://bible.com/bible/116/luk.18.1-8.NLT>

Psalms 13:1-2 NIV

<small><font color="#999999">1</font></small> How long, Lord ? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?  
<small><font color="#999999">2</font></small> How long must I wrestle

with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me?  
<https://bible.com/bible/111/psa.13.1-2.NIV>

If we pray because we want answers, we will get annoyed with God.  
Citation: Oswald Chambers

Exodus 14:13-14 NIV

<small><font color="#999999">13</font></small> Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. <small><font color="#999999">14</font></small> The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still."  
<https://bible.com/bible/111/exo.14.13-14.NIV>

PRAYING LIKE A PROPHET:

1. Find out what God wants to do.
2. Ask for what God wants to do.
3. Receive what God wants to do.

Psalms 13:1-4 NIV

<small><font color="#999999">1</font></small> How long, Lord ? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?  
<small><font color="#999999">2</font></small> How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me? <small><font color="#999999">3</font></small> Look on me and answer, Lord my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death, <small><font color="#999999">4</font></small> and my enemy will say, "I have overcome him," and my foes will rejoice when I fall.  
<https://bible.com/bible/111/psa.13.1-4.NIV>

What should I do when my prayers seem to go unanswered?

Sermon in a Sentence:

Keep on praying until the answer comes.

Psalms 13:5-6 NIV

<small><font color="#999999">5</font></small> But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. <small><font color="#999999">6</font></small> I will sing the Lord 's praise, for he has been good to me.  
<https://bible.com/bible/111/psa.13.5-6.NIV>

One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up. (Luke 18:1 NLT)

Too often we pray ASAP prayers - as soon as possible. We need to start praying ALAT prayers - as long as it takes.

Citation: Mark Batterson, DRAW THE CIRCLE