

PRAYER: I'M SO CONFUSED!

I Thess 5:17 – pray continually (KJV – “without _____”)

Matt. 6:6 – “when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father.”

Matt. 7:7,8 – “Ask and it will be given you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” The verb tenses are _____ tense – “ask and keep on asking, seek and keep on seeking, knock and keep on knocking.”

Matt. 6:7,8 – “(the pagans) think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.”

Things that seem contradictory to us are not bothersome to _____!

Luke 11:1 – “One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When He finished, one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.” They did NOT ask: “Lord, teach us HOW to pray”. There is a difference between “Teach us _____ pray” and “teach us HOW to pray”.

They knew HOW to do it – the words, the formulas, the bodily postures, which direction to face - but, as they watched Jesus pray, they realized they didn't know what it meant _____. I think their request was, “Jesus, teach us to get beyond formulas and rituals and programs and teach us to _____ pray – to really communicate with the Father, the way You do.”

Takeaway:

1. Why pray? I Thess. 5:17 – “Pray continually” - Mark Batterson put it this way: God wants us to live our lives in prayer mode. Prayer is the only way we are going to reach our God-given potential.... If you take prayer out of the equation, all we can hope for is our human best – and I want more than that!”

You don't HAVE to pray – you _____ to pray!

2. Allow seeming paradoxes and contradictions to exist for God – stop trying to _____ them out.

“The hidden things belong to God.” (Deut. 29:29) (The rest of the verse says that the things that are revealed belong to us and our children – concentrate on what has been _____!!)

“God, I trust You even when I can't understand. I will live for you, if I NEVER make sense out of all this.”

