

Prayer . . . and More

Luke 11:vs 1 says: *“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.’”*

Have you ever spoken to someone who seemed to have a glow of calm, even in the middle of difficult times, and wondered how they found tranquility during their storm?

Is it ever your desire to receive something you see someone else receiving? – not in a jealous way, but in a hopeful way.

Perhaps that was the sentiment of the disciple who observes Jesus praying one day. There was something about what the disciple observed that led him to desire the same. Maybe it was the words Jesus was speaking or the sincerity in His voice or the passion with which He prayed. Whatever it was, the disciple was desirous of the same. *“Lord, teach us... (teach me) to pray.”*

But very likely, underneath that question is something more than having the right words with which to pray or the right posture in praying.

Underneath the question may simply be the desire to be as in tune with your heavenly Father as Jesus is.

The beauty of prayer is not simply being able to speak the right words, but to have such a relationship with Him to whom you pray that you **comfortably** speak those words.

The beauty of prayer is being in such a relationship with God that there is comfort and faith and peace in the praying all because of the One to whom you are praying.

No wonder then that the way Jesus responded to the disciples request about teaching him to pray was by saying, *“Father, hallowed be your name . . .”* It begins with the **relationship**. Woven into the disciple’s question was likely a desire to have more than the right words to speak, but the right relationship.

What does that look like for your prayers? Are you comfortable in sharing your fears, losses, or pain with Jesus in honest prayer with Him? What would happen if the entire membership of Hope united in prayer?

As you go to God in prayer for the “Building Hope for the Future” campaign, celebrate the relationship you have with Jesus. It is because of the relationship you have with Him, and He with you, ...that you will experience immeasurably more than you could ever ask or imagine.