

Proximity: Relationship

Darcy Siggelkow

Questions: How would you describe prayer? What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of prayer?

God has instituted prayer so as to confer upon his creatures the dignity being causes.

Blaise Pascal

- Through prayer we are creative partners with God in writing the story that happens on stage of history!
- Prayer is first and foremost about relationship...with God.

Read Matthew 6:9–13 The Lord’s Prayer

Read Matthew 6:5

Prayer Traps:

1. Using prayer to look spiritual.

Hypocrisy: contradiction between reality and appearance

Read Matthew 6:6

**Prayer is not about getting the attention of others.
It’s about giving our attention to God.**

2. Thinking that prayer is about what we say.

Read Matthew 6:7-8

We think if we just say the right words or enough words we can get God to do what we want.

Questions: Which of these traps have you ever been caught in? What did it look like?

Prayer is not just **communication** to God.
It’s **communion** with God, our Father.

Read Matthew 6:9; Romans 8:15–16; Philippians 4:6

**Sometimes saying our prayers
gets in the way of prayer.**

Basil Pennington

Questions: What does praying “Father, I just want to be with you” look and sound like to you? What is one adjustment to your prayer life that you will make to move you closer to the heart of this in prayer?

