

# WHY PRAY?

## Becoming God's Friend

Discussion Guide  
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### "The Friends of God"

by Pastor Paul R. Martin  
Genesis 1-2; Hebrews 11

**Introduction:** In these foundational messages I want to establish an understanding of prayer that places it in the total context of our relationship to God. In this message we will discover that prayer is not man's effort to connect with deity, but actually God's intention to have fellowship with us. The highest form of prayer is not a formal process of incantation using formula and "sacred wording," but a heart-to-heart conversation with God that is characterized by intimacy and integrity.

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xx (NASB)

#### Sermon Outline

- I. **In the beginning...God walked with man in the cool of the day (Genesis 3:8)**
  - A. It is obvious from the earliest chapters of Genesis that God desired fellowship with the man and woman He had made in His own image.
  - B. The fellowship was apparently initiated by God on a daily basis, though one may suppose it was not limited to only one specific time.
  - C. It is this communion that was broken by sin, and restored by Christ, as we are reconciled to God and fellowship is recovered. (2 Cor. 5:17-21; Romans 5:1)
  
- II. **God Tells the Man Who Cares (from A. W. Tozer)**
  - A. Friendship with God is (in many ways) like friendship with anyone else
    1. Based on mutual love, respect, and shared interests
    2. Characterized by conversation around those interests
      - a. honest sharing from the heart
      - b. active listening with genuine interest
    3. Strengthened by valuing each others goals
  - B. Friendship with God is attested in Scripture by God Himself
    1. Abraham, the friend of God (James 2:23)
    2. Moses, God spoke with him as a man speaks with his friend (Exodus 33:11)
    3. David, a man after God's own heart (1 Sam 13:14 with Acts 13:22)
    4. You are My friends (John 15:13,14,&15—three times!)
  - C. It is God's desire to reveal His plans to His friends
    1. Things to come revealed to Daniel (Daniel 2:19,30; 9:2; 10:1)
    2. Spiritual truths and eternal purposes (1 Cor. 2:10)
    3. The mystery of Christ (Eph 3:5)
    4. The heart of the Father (John 15:15)
  
- III. **Hebrews Chapter Eleven: The Friends of God**

Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Rahab, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and many, many more

**Conclusion:** God is still searching out friends today, men and women who will take the time to listen to His heart, to hear His desires, to share His passion for the world. He is looking for men and women who will take up His cause, pray for His will and Kingdom to come, and be available for His work. God still is still searching for people who care enough about His interests to let Him into their lives, and through them, to bless the world—men and women who are all about His Kingdom and the glory of Christ Jesus and the salvation of lost people everywhere.



Discussion Questions

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**MEMORY VERSES**

*"If you abide in Me,  
and My words abide in  
you, ask whatever you  
wish, and it will be  
done for you."*

John 15: 7 (NASB)

*Therefore humble  
yourselves under the  
mighty hand of God,  
that He may exalt you  
at the proper time, <sup>7</sup>  
casting all your  
anxiety on Him,  
because He cares for  
you.*

I Peter 5: 6-7 (NASB)

