



## Life Groups in Central Telford Parish

### Spring 2017 "The Lord's Prayer"

Week beginning 5<sup>th</sup> February 2017

## A - Power - Conversations In The Spirit

### The Aim of this Session

When we pray, we pray to God the Father, through the way which Jesus has opened up for us, so that we can approach him, face to face. But we are tempted to speak from our mind, rather than our heart, listing needs rather than sharing our inmost thoughts and desires. In other words, we don't pray "in the Spirit" ...

- **Welcome**

What other languages do you speak or understand?

- **Worship**

The Lord's Prayer speaks of the Fatherhood of the infinite God, who wants us to meet with him like the Father in the story of the Prodigal Son. It speaks of the example of Jesus, the one who sits at the right hand of God, and yet is with us when we meet and calls us "brothers and sisters", who through his death on the Cross, made a way for us to meet with God, face to face, a way that was previously blocked – amazing! Use your own words, your own phrases, to express how wonderful this is. No liturgy allowed, no clichés – just your own personal words!

- **Word**

- ❖ When you breathe, what happens?
- ❖ What happens if you stop breathing?!?!?
- ❖ What is "inspiration"?

Read Genesis 2:7. Genesis 2 has a "complementary" view of Creation, expanding on Genesis 1. All the animals and birds we read of God creating needed to breathe but the breath that God breathes into Adam is *ruach*, the Spirit, the Soul. God gives mankind an existence which is above the animals (Genesis 1:27-29), a spiritual existence.

- ❖ Where do you believe in God – in your body, mind or soul?
- ❖ Where do you meet with God – in your body mind or soul?
- ❖ How does this affect the sort of relationship you have?
- ❖ How is it different to others?
- ❖ How does communication in this relationship work?
- ❖ When you pray – *how* do you pray, rather than *what* do you pray?
- ❖ What is being communicated and how – and why?

Read John 8:36 and 2 Corinthians 3:17.

- What do you understand by the word "freedom"?
- What does "freedom" mean in a relationship?
- What does "freedom" mean in our relationship with God?
- How does Jesus see it? Read John 3:8.

- How would you describe “prayer in the Spirit” based on these verses?

Learning to pray in the Spirit brings freedom, total freedom. But beware. It means letting God the Holy Spirit prompt us at any time of day or night to pray for someone or some situation, it means being open to his prompting of things we need to repent of, relationships we need to repair, and issues we need to address.

- ❖ What causes blockages in relationships?
- ❖ What are the results in the short term ... and in the long term?
- ❖ How can relationship blockages be resolved?
- ❖ What is the cost and who pays?
- ❖ What is the consequence of unblocking?

- **Walk**

- ❖ What holds us back from praying with the freedom described?
- ❖ Do we ... you ... want to be free (BIG question)?
- ❖ What would “free” us to do so?
- ❖ How can we help each other to pray with freedom?

We hopefully are beginning to understand that when we pray, we are expressing our relationship with God and speaking to him as a loving parent, who wants the best for us. We recognise that there needs to be a balance between the intimacy of that relationship and the fact that we come in humility and awe before the eternal God. We can see how this has been achieved through the death of Jesus Christ – and the fact that the blockages are gone if we want them to and we have the potential for the freedom described in this study.

It might be useful to have some music playing – open yourself up to God and pray for that freedom in the relationship and in prayer which we have spoken of. Speak to God from your heart, not your mind and pray with freedom!

Be bold and brave – share with one another and discuss what you sense God is saying. Pray for any other specific issues people are facing in the Life Group. “***You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.***” (Isaiah 26:3 NIV)

