



Leader Guide Session 12

Leader Notes:

The thing we have in common with the apostle Peter is our will and our discipline and our passion and our strength is lacking to bring about the obedience that God has called us to. The thing we miss most often is not the invitation to pray and praise but the invitation to commune with the living God and to boldly approach the throne of grace.

Prayer is not just a duty; it's a delight and a gift for the people of God to commune with their adopting, loving, merciful Father. You've been called to a relationship with God through Christ. That and that alone is Christianity.

- Prayer needs to be planned.
- Adopt practical ways to impede mental drift.
- In different times and in different seasons, seek out people to pray with.
- Get around people who do pray.
- Develop a system for your prayer lists.
- Mingle praise, confession, and intercession and tie as much of it as you can back to the Scriptures.
- Pray until you pray.

Read the Word of God and let it lead us to praise, adoration, and intercession.

- Singing digs deep roots.
- Singing builds others up.
- Singing strengthens the person for trials.

The Lord has designed us as whole people. The spirit can affect the physical and the mental.

The only way to kill darkness is to drag it into the light. You will not win on your own.

Being weary enough to surrender pushes you into prayer and praise more than your strength ever will.

Journey CHURCH

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Discussion

- 1) Matt began his teaching from Mark 14:26-31,66-68 with a conversation between Peter and Jesus.
 - How would you summarize that account? What makes it a helpful backdrop for today's text in James 5:13-18?
 - How does Peter's life illustrate "Progress, not perfection"? What does that phrase mean?
- 2) Read James 5:13 -14.
 - What circumstances or seasons of life do these verses mention?
 - How does this teaching relate to the ongoing process of faith and works in the Christian life?
 - What are prayer and praise? In what ways are they fundamentally the same? In what ways do they always constitute steps toward progress in believers' spiritual growth?
 - What changes in your heart and mind when you view the repeated instruction to pray or praise, regardless of the circumstance, as a relational invitation rather than a religious obligation?
- 3) Read James 5:15
 - What examples did James give to demonstrate the power of prayer in the life of a faithful believer?
 - Why do you think prayer is often a difficult habit even for people who believe in the power of prayer and the presence of a loving Heavenly Father?
- 4) Matt shared seven practical tips from D. A. Carson for making progress toward a faithful prayer life. What does each of the following tips mean? How is each one helpful?
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- 5) Were any of these brand-new ideas for you?
- 6) What practices have you found effective for developing faithfulness and focus in your prayer life?
- 7) What remaining questions or comments do you have about the video teaching or discussion?
- 8) What was challenging, convicting, encouraging, or timely for your current circumstances?

Close in prayer.