



**Series: *DIVING DEEPER***  
**May 7, 2017**

## **Why Pray?**

**Primary Scripture: John 15:4-5 (NIV)**

*“Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”*

**Additional Scripture:** Matthew 14:23, 26:36, 39, 42, 44, Mark 1:35, 6:46, 14:35, Luke 5:16, 6:12, 11:1, John 17

Prayer is more than sharing our shopping list of wants and needs or even a list of names with God. It's about communing with the living God through a relationship that has been nurtured through the Holy Spirit. We get to know God intellectually through His Word, but really connecting with Him as a person spiritually involves being permanently connected as a branch in the true vine. It's about dwelling/abiding in Him verses and in and out time of one way conversation. We are always in Him the omnipresent God. This is action in which the disciplines of meditation and listening are practiced in conjunction with learning and knowing how He works. Looking at all the times Jesus spent time alone with the Father should give us an indication of the kind of relationship God wants with us.

### **Discussion:**

So, why pray? Prayer is not task. It's about 24/7 dwelling in God's presence. I don't have to come into His presence; I am always in His presence. It's a privilege to be able to be in the presence of the Living God. Jesus paid a great price to make a way for us to dwell in His presence. The writer of Hebrews says, “So we can go confidently to the throne of God's kindness to receive mercy and find kindness, which will help us at the right time” Hebrews 4:16 (GW). In this relationship, I can have a conversation with my Heavenly Father any time.

1. What are some of the misconceptions people have about prayer?
2. What are some things that can hinder a person's prayer life?
3. What has been the biggest challenge you have had to overcome to have a consistent prayer life?
4. What has worked best to help you have a consistent prayer life?
5. Is prayer only for or during a specific time of day? Explain.
6. How often do you find yourself talking with God throughout the day.