

PRAYER

1 Kings 19:9-13



SYNOPSIS

As we continue in our series: "A Praying Life," we learned from Elijah's encounter with God that he did not hear God's voice in the earthquake, fire, or wind (which were the ways the Israelites would have expected God to speak), but rather in a gentle whisper. God often speaks to us when we are alone. He often speaks to us in the unexpected and unwanted moments of our life. He whispers so that we will lean in and draw close to Him. Proximity matter, and in prayer, God wants us to be close to Him.

Our attention span is becoming increasingly short. Not only that, in this digital age, we are a distracted generation. But when God wants to speak to the people, he comes to take away the distractions. Often times he will lead us to places in solitude to meet us one by one, and sometimes he strips things away that we treasure dearly because it distracts us from His voice. He uses unwanted circumstances to speak some of the dearest words to us. In prayer, He desires to shape us.

Finally, God wants us to love Him. He is looking for lovers over laborers. More than having the right words, the rituals, the show that we put on, He is looking for our heart. Prayer is allowing God to have the innermost part of our being. In prayer, He wants us to know Him and love Him.



3 IMPORTANT POINTS

1

GOD WANTS US TO BE CLOSE TO HIM

Sometimes, God whispers to us so that we will need to lean in and draw close to Him. You don't hear whispers from afar, you have to lean in - and prayer is also about proximity - leaning in to hear the voice of our Father. He can speak to us in both expected (fire, wind, earthquake) and unexpected ways (whisper). The importance is recognizing His voice and drawing near to Him.

2

GOD WANTS TO SHAPE US IN PRAYER

God will often cut out distractions in our life and use unwanted circumstances to speak some of the dearest words to us. He wants to shape us to become more like Him. He may lead us into places of solitude, or even allow us to come to the end of ourselves so that we will turn back to listen to Him.

3

GOD WANTS US TO LOVE HIM

Prayer is allowing God to have the innermost part of us - it's allowing God to have access to us. When we look at the failure of Saul, he may have had the rituals and the show, but God desired the heart. More than our service, God desires us. If we are simply duty and obedience Christians, we need to realize that we can be honest and raw with our emotions when we come to Him. Will we be known as people that loves God and knows Him?



kairos church



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

How do you usually get to know someone? What are ways conversation can go deeper into knowing someone?

2

How do you usually hear from God and what are the expected ways for hearing His voice? Have you ever heard from God in an 'unexpected way'?

3

Do we make prayer about Him? Do we know what it looks like to make prayer about knowing Him and loving Him? What are some ways prayer is about him? (i.e. "Teach me your ways O Lord," "Show me your glory," "Reveal your heart to me in this situation.")

4

Have you had a moment in your life where God spoke to you in an unwanted circumstance/situation?

5

Do you gravitate towards viewing Christianity as duty and obedience? Without diminishing the importance of duty and obedience, how can we be people that are lovers above laborers?



BIG IDEA

God can speak to us in many expected ways, but He also speaks to us in unexpected ways. One of the keys to prayer is proximity. God wants us to be close to Him and He will draw us in, sometimes cutting away things that we hold dear so that we can draw near to Him. At the end of the day, God desires us. He wants the innermost part of us - our hearts. He wants to have access to us. In prayer, He wants us to be close to Him, He wants to shape us, and He wants us to know him and love him.