

Cell notes for Sunday, 12th November 2017

James 5: 13-18; Luke 11: 5-10; Psalm 139: 7-12

Prayer is the means we use to communicate with God – it is therefore central to our spiritual life as Christians. Much is written about prayer, but there is no simple formula for prayer: prayer is a mystery; it is all-encompassing.

We looked at the pattern of prayer in Jesus' life and how He was involved in public prayer in the synagogue, prayer with his disciples, prayer for people, and prayer on His own. It was a priority in His life.

God wants the best for us, and longs to give good gifts to His children. When we pray, we are talking to someone who has our best interests at heart.

We are told to pray in all circumstances, bringing our requests to God. We are to intercede for ourselves, for others and for the world. In times of difficulty God holds and sustains us. He also wants us to come to Him so that He can show us how we need to change.

"In prayer, real prayer, we begin to think God's thought after Him; to desire the things He desires; to love the things He loves; to will the things He wills." (Richard Foster).

1. Use Psalm 139 as a basis for worship, focussing on the greatness of God and the way He holds all things in His hands.
2. What is your expectation of, and experience of, God wanting good things for you?
3. Look at James 5: 13-18. When are we told to pray? How have you put this into practice?
4. How do you feel when God doesn't answer your prayers in the way you want Him to?
5. What is your experience of God holding you when life has been difficult?
6. How have you experienced God changing you and making you more like Him? What part has prayer played in this?
7. Look at the quote from Richard Foster - "In prayer, real prayer, we begin to think God's thoughts after Him; to desire the things He desires; to love the things He loves; to will the things He wills." What is your experience of this?