

Outline 27

A New Way to Pray: How to Grow Your Forever Friendship With God

- I. God is not impersonal: He _____ each prayer.
ISAIAH 65:24 (723)
- II. Our quest for God is directed by fixed _____ of the universe.
- A. What we behold, we _____ .
1. What we think becomes what we are. **PROVERBS 23:7 (627)**
 2. By _____ we become changed.
2 CORINTHIANS 3:18 (1113)
- B. It is important to have the right _____ .
1. Dwelling on our weaknesses is a negative focus.
 - a. We're promised forgiveness and cleansing when we confess our sins to God. **1 JOHN 1:9 (1168)**
 - b. God promises power to keep you from falling.
JUDE 24 (1173)
 2. We must turn from sin-centered praying to a _____ - centered method of praying.
- III. A new way to pray to get the most from your time with God:
- A. This new method helps resolve the problems of the Three D's of devotional praying:
1. First D: _____—not merely to stay on task, but also to keep focused on Jesus.
 2. Second D: _____—the problem of the constantly shifting focus.
 3. Third D: _____—the problem of the prayer monologue.
- B. The new method of praying is called _____ .
1. Materials needed: Bible, colored marking pen, and hardcover book with blank pages.
 2. You need a “prayer _____” —a quiet place to be alone with God. **MATTHEW 6:6 (939)**

- a. We are creatures of _____ and need one special place set apart for our prayer.
 - b. Avoid distracting atmosphere, like the bed that beckons to sleep.
3. You need a fixed _____ for prayer in your daily schedule.
- a. Choose a time when you can be alone with the fewest interruptions possible.
 - b. Prioritize that time, since it is a high privilege to talk with our Creator and Friend.
4. Let your focus be: “I want to know _____.”
PHILIPPIANS 3:10 (1131)
- a. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are the best prayer focus sources.

- C. Step-by-step instructions:
1. A quiet _____ will start your experience.
 2. Open to your chosen Gospel and begin by reading only _____ story.
 3. Reread to _____ the story: read it over and over again.
 4. Let it be a full _____ experience: add an additional sense (seeing, hearing, feeling, smelling, or tasting) each time you reread the story.
 5. Ask yourself: “What does this story tell me about _____?”
 6. Write in your journal what spoke to you from your reading and meditation.
 - a. First note the date and place in your journal.
 - b. Next write what the story said to you.
 - c. Then with your colored pen write a personal _____ to Jesus or one from Him to you.
 7. Close with a kneel-down prayer to commit yourself and your friends to Jesus.

- IV. Daily communion with Jesus makes all the difference.
- A. It invests our lives with the presence of Jesus. **ACTS 4:13 (1055)**
 - B. It's how to “hold fast to the faith of Jesus.” **REVELATION 14:12, NRSV (1184)**

ANSWERS: (I bears) (II laus: A: become; A-2: beholdng; B: focus; B-2: savtow) (III A-1: Discipline; A-2: Distraction; A-3: Didogue; B: journalng; B-2: close; B-2-a: babt; B-3: time; B-4: Cbrst; C-1: pryer; C-2: one; C-3: reive; C-4: sensory; C-5: Jesus; C-6-c: letter)