

How we speak with God

Living in relationship with God- session 5

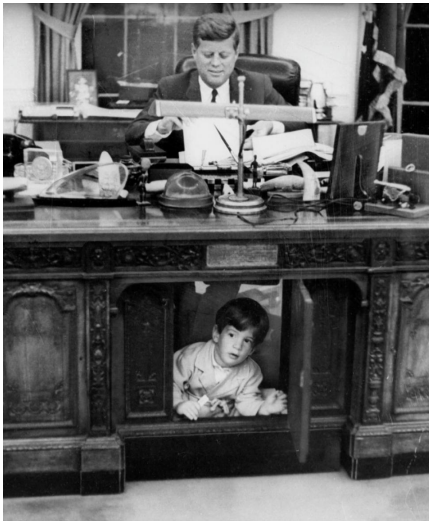
The heart of Christian prayer

*"You did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. **And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."** The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's Children"*

Romans 8:15

1. Our Father...

a. A Father we have access to (Hebrews 10:19-22, p. 1209)



APPLICATIONS:

- *Sin is no barrier*
- *Time and place is no barrier*

b. A Father who loves to grant our requests (Matthew 7:7-12, p. 971)

APPLICATIONS:

- *Make sure you ask!*
- *Remember the other half of the relationship*

2. ... in Heaven

a. A Father who is in complete control (Isaiah 40, p. 724)

"Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father" Matthew 10:29

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine" Eph 3:20

b. A Father we are dependant on (Isaiah 40)

APPLICATIONS:

- *Is God your spare tyre or your steering wheel?*
- *Are we ever too busy to pray?*

*"Apart from me you
can do nothing"
John 15:5*

c. A Father whose will is always best (Matthew 26:39, p. 997)

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, with prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" Philippians 4:6-7

"Words fail to explain how necessary prayer is and in how many ways the exercise of prayer is profitable"

John Calvin

Small Groups – Matthew 6:5–15

Next Time

Next time we'll be thinking about 'how to go God's way'

Main passages: Romans 6

Bible-studies: Romans 12:1-2

Some questions to get you going-

- What is the motivation of Christian obedience?
- What are some of the marks of Christian obedience?

Taking it further

Memory Verse

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God

Philippians 4:6

Further Bible-Study

Often in the letters in the New Testament, there are great examples of prayers that the writer is

praying for the Christians he's writing to. Looking at these prayers can give us lots of ideas of things that we can be praying for each other, and for ourselves. In **Colossians 1:9-14**, we have one of these prayers.

Read through the prayer, and write down as many things as you can find that Paul is praying for his Christian friends in the town of Colossae. Why not use some of these things in your own prayers for your friends at St Mary's this week.

For the book-worms

<i>Our Father</i>	Richard Coekin	This book works through the Lord's prayer. It's very practical, and gives lots of concrete examples that will help us grow in our own prayer lives.
<i>Enjoy your prayer life</i>	Mike Reeves	A short 40 page booklet- a great place to start.
<i>You can pray</i>	Tim Chester	An overview of some of the reasons why we can pray with freedom and confidence, as well as dealing with some of the reasons we find it hard to pray.