

“Yield”

- Introduction - Continue our Series, Prayer Model: “P.R.A.Y.”
 - How to pray a simple guide for normal people -Pete Grieg
- Review
 - “P” - Pause”...review main points:
 - “R” - Rejoice. . .review main points
 - “Ask”
 - Petition= for yourself
 - Intercession= for others
 - Traffic light= Yes, No, Wait
 - God is always there
- This week= Yield or Yes

Tension: If prayer is a conversation, how do we listen?

John 10: 1-10

About Scripture:

- Audience would have been very familiar with shepherds and sheep
 - May have actually been present with them here
- Open fold surrounded by a wall or railing- shepherds lead their flocks, committing them to the care of an under-shepherd during the night who guards the door.
- In the morning, come to the door knock and the porter would open, the shepherd would then call his sheep and his sheep who know his voice would follow him
- Many of Israel's greatest heroes were shepherds= Abraham, Jacob, Moses, David
- Imagery used throughout the OT
- Messiah connected to being a shepherd of Israel, Pharisees would have ‘claimed’ to be shepherding Israel
 - Of course Jesus had a lot to say about that!

Listening

- If prayer really is a conversation then an important part is listening
 - Two ears and one mouth for a reason
- “My sheep listen to my voice, I know them and they follow me” John 10:27
- God speaks
 - Word/Bible
 - Daily Bread is also spiritual nourishment of daily reading of the Bible
 - Jesus when tempted by Satan in the desert “Man doesn’t live on bread alone”
 - Primary source of revelation and ultimate authority by which we weigh all other words
 - The writer of Hebrews reminds us that **the Word of God is Living and powerful**
 - Pastor Mark Batterson says that “Scripture is God’s way of initiating a conversation; prayer is our response. The paradigm shift happens when you realize that the Bible wasn’t meant to be read through; the Bible was meant to be prayed through. And if you pray through it, you’ll never run out of things to talk about.”
 - How do we do this? How do we “pray through” the Bible in the way Batterson recommends?
 - First, try to read it slowly and preferably out loud.
 - Second, our prayers shift away from our personal priorities toward topics we might never otherwise address
 - Third, we hear him speaking to us more clearly as we stop reading the Bible and start praying it instead
 - Use John 10:5 as an example

- Spirit/Dreams and visions
 - Bible teaches that God speaks in this way
 - Subjective so we must weigh them against Scripture and apply W.W.J.D.
 - Gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy
 - Encouragement, Edification, Comfort of the church
 - “Eagerly desire” this gift
- Counsel of trusted friends and family
 - Not always dramatic like the Damascus road, sometimes more like the Emmaus road
 - Conversations with friends, biblical reflection, counsel of trusted individuals
- Personal reflection
 - “Still, small voice”- Gentle whisper
 - Contemplation
 - “Contemplation is Stargazing rather than astrology”
 - Like getting lost in the night sky, contemplation is getting lost in God’s presence; an intimate sharing, a trusting openness; a time of enjoying God’s presence and love
 - Me & God
 - God & Me
 - God
 - Like a good movie, get lost in
 - “Such all-consuming experiences are the overwhelming human desire for them - in art, in sex, in nature, in moments of sporting euphoria, in deep conversations with friends - are rumors of another world. They whisper that we are made for eternity, wired to worship, happiest whenever we abandon ourselves to something great and more beautiful than our own little lives...our souls are crying out for a deeper encounter with Christ...” Pg. 141
 - Idea, thought, impression during prayer or more often in times of distraction afterward
 - Remembering someone’s name when not thinking about it (David Vann)
 - Must “test” it though, again against scripture and W.W.J.D.
- Action
 - Yielding is a combination of “listening and obeying”
 - Luke 11:28
 - Friendship with God is obedience
 - Listening is yielding willingly to whatever God tells us to do
 - Must obey previous thing in order to receive next assignment, one step at a time
 - Prayer by Christina Rossetti “Speak, Lord, for Thy servant heareth. Grant us ears to hear, eyes to see, wills to obey, hearts to love.”

Closing

- V. 9&10 **“I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. a They will come in and go out, and find pasture. 10The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.!**
 - Jesus is the only way, he is the gate
 - Only way to salvation= must listen to him
 - We will find what we are searching for/need= pasture
 - Life and life abundant