



All Prayer is Good; Some Prayers are Better. | Doug Wekenman | 8.16.25

Weekly Study

SHARE

Welcome to our new series, ***Can We Talk?*** Over the next few weeks we're going to explore what prayer really looks like, not as a ritual or duty but as a relationship. Just like any close friendship grows through honest conversation, God desires ongoing dialogue with us. This series will help us remove the barriers of inferiority, intimidation, and insignificance so we can pray with confidence as beloved children.

This first week focuses on the foundation: all prayer is good because God loves connection, but some prayers are better because maturity, alignment, and boldness open us up to "MORE." We'll learn that God is less concerned with polished words and more concerned with being with us.

- ☐ **When you hear the phrase "Can we talk?" What's the first emotion or image that comes to mind?**

GROW

Read Genesis 3:8-9

- ☐ **How does this passage help you see God's heart for relationship, even after failure?**

From the very beginning, God walked with humanity in the garden and called out, "Where are you?" His question wasn't to condemn but to reconnect. Prayer is the same today, God still comes looking for us, longing to talk with us even when we hide in shame or fear.

Jesus reaffirms our identity as dearly loved children when the Father declares at His baptism in *Matthew 3:17*, *"This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy"*. When we believe that same affirmation applies to us, intimidation begins to fall away. We don't have to perform to get God's attention, because we already have it.

- ☐ **Where have you recently felt tempted to hide from God instead of talking to Him?**
- ☐ **What voices or experiences make you feel intimidated in prayer, and how does God's declaration over you change that knowing he only wants to connect with you?**

James 4:2 reminds us, *"You do not have because you do not ask."* Too often we dismiss our needs as insignificant, assuming God doesn't care about small things. But prayer invites us to bring everything from lost keys to broken hearts into His presence. Nothing is too minor for His attention or too big for His power.

- ☐ **What's one "small" thing you've held back from asking God about, and why?**

MOVE

Read James 5:16

- ☐ **How would you personally define a "better prayer"?**

Prayer matures when we stop only asking God to remove hard things and start asking Him to grow us through them. Instead of "make the weight lighter," we pray "make me stronger." These are the prayers that shape character and align us with God's purposes.

Better prayers also align with wisdom. When we pray for health but refuse to rest, or pray for provision but ignore stewardship, our prayers can drift from God's design. Alignment means asking God to transform us even as we make choices that cooperate with His will.

- ☐ **What's one area where you sense God asking you to pray for growth rather than relief?**
- ☐ **What part of your life do you need to bring into alignment with God so your prayers carry more weight?**

Finally, better prayers are bold and specific. Instead of vague hopes, God invites us to name requests, attach perseverance, and trust His timing. Bold prayers reflect faith in a Father who delights to give *"immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine"* - Ephesians 3:20.

- ☐ **What bold, specific request is God prompting you to start praying "as long as it takes"?**

CHALLENGE

This week, let's step into deeper prayer lives by practicing both maturity and boldness in simple, intentional ways.

- 1. Each day, pray for strength in an area you've been asking God to remove.**
- 2. Pray boldly and specifically for one dream or need, bringing it to God daily.**

P R A Y

As a group, come together to pray boldly, with confidence knowing who your Heavenly Father is. Ask Him to guide your steps, quiet the distractions, and open your hearts to His voice. Pray for clarity, strength, and joy as you intentionally follow Him and lean into His presence each day.