



## Introduction

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

### I. What is Prayer?

Prayer is both a conversation and encounter with God – Keller, 5

Prayer is simply the key to everything we need to do and be in life – Keller, 18

Prayer is to give a more vivid sense of the reality of God's presence and of shared life with him – Keller, 21

Prayer is simply a recognition of the greatness of God – Keller, 26

Prayer is one of the hardest things in the world – Keller, 24

Prayer is a natural human instinct – Keller, 29

Prayer is a nourishing friendship – Keller, 29

Prayer is a refuge – Keller, 31



Prayer is awe, intimacy, struggle – yet the way to reality. There is nothing more important, or harder or richer, or more life-altering. There is absolutely nothing so great as prayer – Keller, 32

Prayer is our way of entering into the happiness of God Himself – Keller, 68

Anyone with real faith will desire to pray because, through the Spirit, prayer is faith become audible – Keller, 70

Prayer is the way to experience a powerful confidence that God is handling our lives well, that our bad things will turn out for good, our good things cannot be taken from us, and the best things are yet to come. - Keller, 73

## II. What does prayer do?

### A. Prayer aligns our thoughts toward God

#### **Prayer is the personal, communicative response to the knowledge of God – Keller, 45**

##### **Psalm 63:1-8**

O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you;  
my flesh faints for you,  
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.  
So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,  
beholding your power and glory.  
Because your steadfast love is better than life,  
my lips will praise you.  
So I will bless you as long as I live;  
in your name I will lift up my hands.  
My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food,  
and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips,  
when I remember you upon my bed,  
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;



for you have been my help,  
and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy.  
My soul clings to you;  
your right hand upholds me.

**Psalm 86:11 -Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.**

B. Prayer give us more accurate self-assessment

**Prayer is the only entryway into genuine self-knowledge – Keller, 18**

C. Prayer ushers us into a living communion with our Father

**Prayer turns theology into experience – Keller, 80**

III. How Ought We Pray?

**JC Ryle – Nothing so hardens the heart of man as a barren familiarity with sacred things.**

**Matthew 6:9-13**

**Our Father in heaven,**

**Hallowed be your name.**

**Your kingdom come,**

**Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**



Class: Knowing Christ  
Lesson: Prayer  
Term: Spring (30 January  
2017)  
Professor: Zach Varnell

---

**Give us this day our daily bread,**

**Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.**

**Lead us not into temptation,**

**Deliver us from evil.**

**For Yours is the Kingdom and the Power and Glory Forever**