



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
GOD. SERVE. LOVE. COMMUNITY.

The 7 Pillars of a Healthy Church

Wednesdays in The Word

March 22, 2017

Reverend Tyrone McGowan, Pastor

PILLAR 5: Unlocking The Power of Prayer

- Prayer is personal.
- Prayer is the means by which we can know God and God's will for our lives.
- Prayer is not just an action, it's an orientation.
- Prayer is a way of being in the world.
- The Greek word most often used for prayer in the New Testament contains much deeper meaning than most believers realize.
- The word demands *surrender* and *consecration* on the part of the one making the request.
- The word prayer used in most New Testament texts is taken from the commonly used Greek word for prayer which is *proseuche*.
- This is a compound Greek word derived from the words *pros* and *euche*.
- **Pros** = is a preposition meaning face-to-face. The idea conveyed by this word is one of intimacy.
- **Euche** = is a word that means a wish, desire, or vow

Speaking Principles

- I. Confession** *I John 1:5-10*
 - To confess our sins in the truest sense involves despising the sin, being grieved by it.
 - The God where you have fallen short. Be specific.
 - Thank God for the forgiveness that is available.
 - Ask God for strength to resist temptation.
- II. Worship** *Psalms 145*
 - Worship is about expressing your love and adoration for who God is.
 - The focus of worship is not on the hand of God, but rather on the face of God.
- III. Thanksgiving** *Psalms 69:30*
 - We must express our gratefulness for all the things God has done for us.
 - We have plenty of reasons to be thankful.
- IV. Petition** *Philippians 4:6-7*
 - This is the opportunity to offer to God your personal requests.
 - Tell God what you want, no matter how insignificant it seems to you.



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V. Intercession

Colossians 1:3, 9-14

- Intercessory prayer is the act of praying on the behalf of others.
- The role of mediator was prevalent in Old Testament.
- In New Testament Christ becomes the ultimate intercessor.

Rom. 8:34; I Tim. 2:5

Listening Principles

VI. Be Still and Quiet Before God

- Discipline is the only way we can learn this principle.
- At times it might be good to have a change of scenery when trying to listen to God.

VII. Don't Hurry Your Time with God

- God wants us to learn to wait before God.
- It is difficult to experience meaningful times with God if you are trying to rush God into your schedule.

VIII. Spend Various Seasons of Your Life with God

- Don't just pray when you find yourself in a moment of crisis.
- Prayer works best when we are consistent.

Four Reasons Christians Don't Pray

IX. Pride

Proverbs 29:23, 11:2, 1 John 1:8,10

X. Unbelief

Hebrews 11:6, Mark 9:14-24

XI. Lack of Knowledge

Hosea 4:6

XII. Time

Isaiah 50:4, I Tim. 2:1