

Prayer {reconstructed}

Week 4

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Prayer is how we relate to God; prayer is how we are with God.

RELATIONSHIPS ACCORDING TO TED

1. Accept “Imperfection.”
2. Show Up.
3. Make Friends with Solitude.
4. Balance Giving and Taking.
5. Give Up Old Grudges and Outdated Beliefs.
6. Talk Through Your Differences.
7. Share Something New.

SIX STREAMS OF SPIRITUALITY

1. Contemplative Tradition
2. Holiness Tradition
3. Charismatic Tradition
4. Social Justice Tradition
5. Evangelical Tradition
6. Incarnational Tradition

TWO UNTESTED THEORIES:

1. There is no “wrong” way to pray to God.
2. There is no “right” way to pray to God that will guarantee a desired outcome.

A final word or two (ok, more):

Prayer is not just what I say to God. Prayer is how I am with God. Prayer is me, God’s beloved, in the presence of God, who loves me. It doesn’t matter what I say, or how I say it. It doesn’t matter what means I use to be with him – it just matters that we’re there, together.

Six Streams of Spirituality

Stream of Spirituality:	Definition	When Connected with the life of Christ, we experience:	When disconnected with the life of Christ, we experience:	Some Examples ¹
Evangelical	Word-Based – Proclamation of the Good News; centrality of scripture	Wisdom	Dry or dead orthodoxy Rationalism	Thomas Aquinas / John Wycliffe Martin Luther / John Calvin Charles Spurgeon / Billy Sunday C.S. Lewis / Billy Graham
Charismatic	Spirit Empowered – everyone has a charism, all are needed	Anointing / Power	Emotionalism Experientialism	Gregory the Great / Hildegard of Bingen Francis of Assisi / Joan of Arc Charles Wesley / Oral Roberts Aimee Semple McPherson
Holiness	Virtuous Life – Sermon on the Mount is central; discipleship	Transformation	Legalism Behaviorism Externalism	Bernard of Clairvaux Thomas a Kempis Ignatius of Loyola John Wesley Dietrich Bonhoeffer
Social Justice	Compassionate Life – the conscience of institutional life	Ministry / Service	Politicized faith (on either the right or left)	William Wilberforce / Susan B. Anthony Albert Schweitzer / Mother Teresa Rosa Parks / Martin Luther King Jr. Desmond Tutu
Sacramental	Liturgical – Use material symbols and gestures to point to the invisible	Rootedness / Story	Empty ritualism Irrelevant traditionalism	Dante Alighieri / John Milton Samuel Johnson / Dag Hammarskjold Flannery O'Connor
Contemplative	Life of Prayer – intimacy with God; entering into God's love; we respond in outward profound acts of love.	Intimacy	Out of touch Individualism / Isolation Disordered mysticism	Desert fathers & mothers St. Benedict / Julian of Norwich Brother Lawrence / Henri Nouwen Thomas Keating

¹ Note that many of the people listed here, if not most, functioned well in several of the categories.