...and let us consider how to stimulate one another
to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own
assembly together...but
encouraging one another.
Heb 10:24-25

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>June 1, 2011—<strong>Knowing God</strong></th>
<th>Coffee &amp; Donuts—Opening Prayer</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:00 – 6:05</td>
<td>And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. (John 17:3, ESV)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:05-7:00</td>
<td>1) Knowing God</td>
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<td>The word know (ginosko) suggests living contact rather than imparted information.¹</td>
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<td>2) Last Week Review—the lost sons (Luke 11-32)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>a) What was the fundamental problem with each brother?</td>
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<td>Our ultimate motivation for prayer should not be that we want something from God but that we want God. Our basic failure to pray for this intimacy is the direct result of our relationship with him. It is not because we don't love prayer, but because we do not love Christ.²</td>
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<td>3) How Do You Pray?</td>
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<td>We talked because talking tells you things</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Like what you really are thinking about.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>But sometimes you can't find what you're feeling</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Till all the words run out.³</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a) Listening to the words we pray tells us our true theology of God</td>
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<td></td>
<td>i) Do you approach God as one of the lost sons?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>ii) What have you noticed of your true (not said) belief of God through your prayer?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4) Prayer: Is There Anything More Important?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a) Ecclesiastes 12:1-7</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>i) Often we have no substantive prayer life, no deep relationship with God, and then when we enter difficult tribulation we have no one to deeply comfort us other than God-as-acquaintance.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

² *The Table of Inwardness: Nurturing Our Inner Life in Christ.* 68-69, 73.
³ Chapin, Harry. *Taxi Sequel.*
I feel sure that as long as we look upon prayer chiefly as the means of maintaining our own Christian life, we shall not know fully what it is meant to be. But when we learn to regard it as the highest part of the work entrusted to us, the root and strength of all other work, we shall see that there is nothing that we so need to study and practice as the art of praying. Christ is our life: In heaven He ever lives to pray; His life in us is an ever-praying life; if we will but trust Him for it.⁴

b) It depends, I suppose, on how you think of God
   i) …as only road-side emergency service—
      Everyone has noticed how hard it is to turn out thoughts to God when everything is going well with us. We “have all we want” is a terrible saying when “all” does not include God. We find God an interruption. As St. Augustine says somewhere, “God wants to give us something, but cannot, because our hands are full—there’s nowhere for Him to put it.” Or, as a friend of mine said, “We regard God as an airman regards his parachute; it’s there for emergencies but he hopes he’ll never have to use it.”⁵
   ii) …as a facebook friend—
      (1) Friend request from God—Revelation 3:20
         ![Friend Request from God](image)
      (2) His words in Scripture:
         395,294,835,446 people like this
         View all 662,739,603,711,826,968,065,834,766,943 comments
         Like • Dislike • Comment • Reshare
   iii) …as God—
      (1) Genesis 1:1
      (2) Revelation 1:17

5) So, What is Prayer to You?
   a) Psalm 42:1
   b) Psalm 62:1
   c) Psalm 63:1-8
   d) Psalm 84:2
   e) Maybe this is prayer for you…
   f) Or this…

Prayer is combat. The apostolic life is one of great battle. It is a battle, because it is an activity of giving birth (Galatians 4:18-19; 1Thessalonians 2:7-8, 11-12). It is love that gives life, and prayer is the language of love. Prayer is at the heart of the combat for Christ (1John 5:15; Romans 15:30; Colossians 4:12). This combat of prayer is not...

⁵ *The Problem of Pain*. 94.
⁷ *Interior Prayer*. Ch 1.
6) Evaluating Our Prayers
   a) Think of a specific time of prayer that seemed particularly good or particularly bad…
   b) What criteria did you use to make the judgment?
      The first thing I would like to say, and, really, the only thing I have to say, is that I don’t know what prayer is.
      Here and now, that is what matters.
      On an existential level, I am quite incapable of saying, after a time of prayer, whether or not I have really prayed. I just can’t determine the dividing line between prayer and what is simply a rambling mind, or dreaming, or an emptiness which is only a completely natural rest or peace.\textsuperscript{7}

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<tr>
<th>7:00</th>
<th>Closing Prayer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00 – ??</td>
<td>If you would like prayer, please come up front and one or more of us will remain to pray with you.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Further reading:

- The Bible
John 17:3 (CEBA) This is eternal life: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you sent. The Complete Jewish Bible.

John 17:3 (CJB) And eternal life is this: to know you, the one true God, and him whom you sent, Yeshua the Messiah. Holman Christian Standard Bible. Chapter Parallel.

John 17:3 (CSB) This is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and the One You have sent-Jesus Christ. First: â€œFor God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.â€ Second: â€œAnd this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.â€ Please keep these truths in mind â€” they teach why â€” as I seek to describe how you and all of us can come to know God. Know Him through Prayer. My young friends, we can begin to know God through prayer. On April 7, 1829, 22-year-old Oliver Cowdery began his labors as scribe for 23-year-old Joseph Smith. They were young â€” just like Evangelism: Loving God, Loving Others. The Life Of Jesus, Part 9 (9/10). A Gentle Answer. No Doubt. In But Not Of: Here, But Not Homeâ€”Part 1. Worship Through It, Together. Prayers of Jesus. Andrew Murray's Secrets Of Faith. Jesus Revealed Part 16 - It's In The Name. Healed by Jesus. Pray Like Jesus In Tough Times. Knowing Christ & Making Him Known. [Psalms] Be Still And Know. Creatures Of Habit: Study. English (US). English (US). Language. Cancel. {{#items}}. American Standard Version And this is life eternal, that they should know thee the only true God, and him whom thou didst send, even Jesus Christ. Contemporary English Version Eternal life is to know you, the only true God, and to know Jesus Christ, the one you sent. Douay-Rheims Bible Now this is eternal life: That they may know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. English Revised Version And this is life eternal, that they should know thee the only true God, and him whom thou didst send, even Jesus Christ. Good News Translation And eternal life means to know you, t...