

Conversation with God

Introduction:

For the January 2023 Prayer and Fasting season at Glencairn Church, this material, **Conversation with God**, has been put together to assist both Life Groups and those individuals who wish to participate, in communicating with God through prayer. Prayer with God is not restricted to a single format or method. This material is presented to help engage with God in prayer as one would engage with a good friend, via conversation. Back and forth, speaking and listening to one another, to fully understand what is being communicated. Our desire is that all of us at Glencairn Church will continue to grow in our communication and love for God in 2023 and beyond.

Session One

Context: 3 key elements for effective prayer are:

- 1) to know/understand who I am praying to (week one)
- 2) to know/understand who I am (week one)
- 3) practice, practice, practice..... (week two)

1. Who am I praying to?

How do you picture God as you pray to Him? What is your default name for God when you start to pray?

'for through him God created everything
in the heavenly realms and on earth.

He made the things we can see
and the things we can't see—

such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world.

Everything was created through him and for him'. (Colossians 1:16 NLT)

Point to Ponder: 'Everything was created through him (God) and for him (God)'. Is this easy or difficult for you to believe and accept as true? How does your agreement (or disagreement) with this point impact your trust in the exercise of prayer to God?

2. 'Chosen by God':

Think of a personal memory from your past when you were chosen/or not chosen. What were your feelings during that situation? Journal your thoughts about that time.

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| - John 15:16a | - Ephesians 1:4a |
| - Isaiah 44:2a | - James 1:18 |
| - Psalm 139:15 | - Isaiah 45:18 |
| - Psalm 139:16 | - Isaiah 46:3-4 |
| - Acts 17:26 | - 1 Peter 2:9 |

Point to Ponder: I am chosen by God (for His purpose). What thoughts came into your mind as you read these passages? What do they say about who God is and what He's all about? How do these scriptures shape your understanding of who you are, in light of who God is?

Session Two

What thoughts have you had since last week, on the image of God that you hold to?

In light of being 'chosen by God', how might this understanding impact your prayers with God?

3. Practice, practice, practice.....

All your circumstances are in the hand of God, and therefore you don't ever have to think they are unnatural or unique. Your part in intercessory prayer is not to agonize over how to intercede, but to use the everyday circumstances and people God puts around you by His providence to bring them before His throne, and to allow the Spirit in you the opportunity to intercede for them. In this way God is going to touch the whole world with His saints. (Oswald Chambers)

Point to Ponder: I am *uniquely* qualified to pray for the people God puts into my life. Journal your thoughts on how you feel about being uniquely qualified in this way to pray.

- Write down every person you know by name (if they were given just your name, they would be able to say they know who you are)
 - o Identify those who you have talked to at least once the past 365 days
 - o Identify those who you have talked to at least once the past 2-3 years
- Identify 1 circumstance that you know of that you (via God's Spirit in you) would like God to intervene in for any 5 of these persons (5 names, 5 circumstances)
- Write out a detailed prayer from 1 of these 5 circumstances. Write it out as you would be talking it to your closest friend. Read it out loud to God as a prayer.

Below are 2 examples (fictitious content) of a conversational prayer.

Basic Example 1: God, please make Hailey better. Amen

Richer Example 2: Heavenly Father, I really love my granddaughter, Hailey. She has brought such joy and pleasure to Irene and I. Thank you for giving her to us as a member of our family. Father, you know that she has not been feeling well these past couple of weeks and that the doctors cannot figure out what's wrong. So I'm asking you, Father God, will you work in Hailey's body and make her healthy again? Will you please help the doctors to know what to do in her situation? I am very concerned and at times, anxious for Hailey and her parents. And so I am also bringing to you my anxiousness and trusting in your promise from Philippians 4:6. I ask this in Jesus Name, Amen

Conclusion: These two sessions of emphasis towards prayer will hopefully continue you on in your regular prayer life with God. Prayer with God can be conversational, as well as formal. God is both royalty (All Mighty Everlasting God) and family (Father). He can be addressed and accessed either way, based on the intent behind our reaching out to Him. May you be encouraged to come to Him, in both ways, as the Holy Spirit inside you prompts you.