

# DENAIR FRIENDS CHURCH

## Devotions with Matt

MAY 27, 2020

### PRAYER

“It worked! It really worked!” Those were the words we said in astonishment to each other as we walked up the hill to our recently built fort. Each one of us had told our parents that we were sleeping at each other’s house. Never in the history of being a kid had it worked before. We had all tried this trick before, but as we all find out later in life, our parents were smarter than we thought. Now, with smiles on our faces and sleeping bags in hand we made our way up the steep hill to our fort.

Darkness came upon us and we all realized that none of us had thought to bring snacks or food of any kind. The quietness of the hills became deafening. An occasional twig snap or leaf rustling outside our fort sent our imaginations into overdrive. Did one of our parents find out about our scheme and come to get us? Was it a deer making its way past us to water? Or, was it something far more sinister? It’s amazing what a 12 year olds mind can think about in the pitch black darkness of the night in a fort on a hill far away from parents. Maybe we shouldn’t have watched those scary movies after all.

We were all awake at what we think was midnight when it happened. I don’t know if it started off as a joke, or if one of my friends had a serious problem. He started screaming and pointing to the corner of the fort and said, “There it is! Don’t you see it?” Flashlights went on, but nothing was there. He did it again. And again. Pretty soon our other friend began to get scared. The noises outside played tricks in our minds and fueled the fear. Our other friend began to scream and say that he sees them too. They both started talking about ghosts and evil spirits and how our fort must be haunted. I didn’t believe in those things before, but that night I was sure they were right. We all began to cry and point out each and every time we thought one of these spirits revealed themselves. That’s when the first friend said that we needed to pray. I had never prayed before, but pray we did. In what seemed like many long hours, we started blurting out to the roof of our fort, “God help us!”

But is that what prayer is all about? Is it something we do only when we are threatened or in trouble? Or is there more to prayer than that?

One day, as Jesus was out in the countryside, a large crowd gathered around to hear Him teach. He looked around and saw the multitudes, sat down and began His lesson. He started with the Beatitudes, opened up their eyes to the deeper intent of The Law, and now He is teaching about prayer. He could have taught about anything. He could have taught about the wonders of heaven, the horrors of hell or the expanse of the universe. This is Jesus, The Creator of the world. He could have talked about anything at this point, but He chose prayer. In Matthew 6, Jesus sits on a mountainside, looks over the crowd and says, “This, then, is how you should pray”.

He goes into the principles of what we should truly pray for. The words He used that day were not to be used as a hard and fast rule- that we must pray them exactly to be effective in our prayer lives. He gave us some bigger picture principles as a guide for the direction and desire of our prayers. I will go into the principles



another time, but let's get to the heart of why we pray in the first place.

We pray because we get to. We pray because God listens. We pray because we can hear Him when He speaks. We pray because He is God.

When Jesus willingly went to the Cross and died for us, He opened up the way for us to be reconciled back to God. He restored our once broken relationship with Him. Now, in that restored relationship, the communication lines are now open. Can we fathom the thought? Can we fathom the depths of this great blessing? We get to talk to God! We get to hear His voice as He speaks directly to us! Through Jesus, no longer do we throw up prayers to a nebulous entity or an endless universe. God has made Himself known through Jesus and we can talk to Him as one talks to a friend. But this Friend is our all-knowing, all-powerful, holy God who loves us. We get to talk to our Creator. Who wouldn't want to do that?

Looking back to that night in the fort, I learned that prayer is more than just throwing up words in the midst of fear. He does hear us in that state, but it is far greater than just running to Him when we need help or think our worlds are coming to an end. We can go to Him now, because of Jesus, with confidence, in all situations and circumstances, knowing that He hears us and cares about us.

Believe it or not, He likes to talk with us too.

**Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:12-13**

In Christ,  
Matt