

Read 1John 5:13 - 21:

What is the basis of our confidence in coming to God in prayer?

How does knowing who we are in Christ but also who we are in our sinful nature help us to pray in a way that is pleasing to God?

Read 2Chronicles 7:11 - 16:

What confidence does God give to Solomon to pray?

How does this prayer match the prayers we have already seen that is pleasing to God and the confidence that God hears?

Each week in your study in a group or alone it is important to conclude your time in prayer.

Study 3: **Prayer – Pray knowing God hears.**
Sermon – 5th May 2024.

Reading: Matthew 7:7 – 12
1John 5:13 – 21
2Chronicles 7:11 - 16

Obviously and practically, Jesus believed that prayer worked. He put time aside for prayer for he knew his Father in heaven listens and answers prayer. He encourages us to have confidence in prayer.

However, we are tempted to think God is not interested in our prayers or not able to help. This can be seen in us often doing other things first and coming to prayer second or even as a last resort.

In our study today we will be reminded that God listens and is able to answer prayer. As we are reminded hopefully this will encourage us to pray more often and look out for answered prayer.

When you pray how confident are you that God is listening and wants to answer your prayers? What undermines that confidence?

Read Matthew 7:7 - 12:

Having earlier in Matthew 6 taught the Lord's prayer, Jesus encourages us to pray with confidence.

In Matthew 7:7 we are told to ask, seek and knock. What do you think Jesus had in mind that we should ask for? seek? Knock on what door?

In this context do you think Jesus was saying we could get anything we ask?

How does the teaching from the Lord's Prayer which we looked at last study, guide us in what we ask, seek, and knock? How can our prayers align with God's priorities?

In vs 9 to 12 Jesus gives the example of a human father and applies it to the Father in heaven. How does God answer prayer?

Are your prayers prescriptive (that is spelling out how you think God should answer your prayer) or are your prayers open to listen and look for how God sees fit to answer?

Do you think sometimes in your prayers that God has not listened and or answered because it not answered in the way you think it should have?

What sort of prayers do you think are pleasing to God?

Take time to look at the following verses: Matt. 21:22, Mark 9:28 – 29, Mark 11:24, John 14:13 – 14, John 15:16. Clearly Jesus wants us to be confident in prayer. How does this fit in with what we have already looked at?