

Prayer: God's Great Idea

Making God visible

Read: Psalm 2:1-6; Psalm 8; Psalm 46:10

1. What emotion is summoned when “prayer” is mentioned to you? Do you ever feel inadequate or even intimidated by others’ prayer lives?
2. Do you think that our prosperity has diluted our need to pray in the “desperate” manner of Christians and other parts of the world and at other times in history?
3. If God already knows everything, why pray?
4. How would you define prayer? What did Steve mean by saying that “prayer is a position”?
5. “We must stop setting our sights by the lights of each passing ship; instead we must set our course by the stars.” In which way does prayer help us realign our thinking and bring God’s perspective to us? (see also Psalm 46:10)
6. Read Psalm 2:1-6. What might this Psalm have to say about current world events?
7. One ancient definition of prayer is “keeping company with God” which Steve illustrated in terms of meditating over the day’s events with Julie when they are parted? In which way do you find it more difficult dialoguing with God than with a family member or friend?
8. Philip Yancey told the story of Joanna, the South African lady who did an amazing work in the Pollsmoor prison of Cape Town, and how he found her words startling, “God was already present in the prison. I just had to make him visible.” What does her response teach us about God, us, and prayer?