

1. What should be the attitude of our hearts when we pray?
2. The writers of the O.T. had a different view of their relationship with God than we have today.
3. We see this in the way that the scribes - who copied the O.T. Scriptures - when they would write the word for God (YAHWEH) they would throw the writing instrument away and never use it again.
4. They were under such a conviction that once it had written the word for God - the pen was no longer worthy to write anything else.
5. There was a great sense of reverence and fear for God among the people.
6. However - there was not a personal intimacy with God - the people could only approach Him through the tabernacle, temple, or sacrifice.
7. As we come to the N.T. - we see a new relationship between God and man. (Hebrews 4:
8. It is no longer national - it is now individual and personal.
9. The word "Father" is found 17 times in the Sermon on the Mount.
10. This new relationship is explained by Paul in Galatians 4:4-7.
11. The wall of partition was torn from top to bottom.
12. And a whole new way of approaching God was opened for us. (Hebrews 10:19-22)
13. But - we must be careful not to allow this special relationship to move us away from the reverence that God alone deserves.
14. We serve an Almighty God of power and glory - the One who spoke all of creation into existence.
15. On the one hand He is the "Great I Am" - and yet on the other He is our Father.
16. So - when we pray we should do so with a heart of humility. (Luke 18:14)
17. Pride and self-praise shuts the door of prayer. Unconfessed sin affects the very special relationship we have with our Father.
18. The holiness of our lives is marked by our prayer life.
19. It is a vain thing for us to pray with our lips while our heart is absent from it. (Isaiah 29:13 and Mark 7:6)

***Prayer - (How should we pray?)***

**2-28-18**

20. E.M. Bounds wrote, "The church works at religion with the order, precision, and force of real machinery. But too often it works with the heartlessness of the machine. We need to put the spirit of devotion into Monday's business as well as in Sunday's worship."
21. Prayer is based on character (what we are on the inside). It is not so much our words - but what we really are. (1 John 3:22 and Mark 14:38)
22. John 17