

Connecting With God
#SermonGod
The Power of Connecting Part 2
Dr. Mark Jackson, September 9, 2018

John 15:7 Stay joined to me and let my teachings become part of you. Then you can pray for whatever you want, and your prayer will be answered. (CEV)

Connecting Through Prayer

1. BE STILL

Psalm 46:10 Be still and know that I am God... (NIV)

Psalm 131:2 But I have stilled and quieted myself, just as a small child is quiet with its mother. Yes, like a small child is my soul within me. (NLT)

2. BE SINCERE

Psalm 145:18 The Lord is close to all who call on him sincerely. (LB)

Matthew 6:5-6 And when you come before God, don't turn that into a theatrical production either. All these people making a regular show out of their prayers, hoping for stardom! Do you think God sits in a box seat? ⁶"Here's what I want you to do: Find a quiet, secluded place so you won't be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense his grace. (MSG)

3. BE SIMPLE

Matthew 6:7 And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. (NASB)

Matthew 6:9-13 With a God like this loving you, you can pray very simply. Like this: Our Father in heaven, Reveal who you are. ¹⁰Set the world right; Do what's best— as above, so below. ¹¹Keep us alive with three square meals. ¹²Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others. ¹³Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil. You're in charge! (MSG)

4. BE SORRY

Romans 3:23 All of us have sinned and fallen short of God's glory. (CEV)

Isaiah 59:2 Your sins are the roadblock between you and your God. That's why he doesn't answer your prayers... (CEV)

Psalm 66:18 If I regard wickedness in my heart, the Lord will not hear. (NASB)

5. BE SURE

James 1:6-7 But when you ask God for something, **you must have faith and not doubt**. Anyone who doubts is like an ocean wave tossed around in a storm. ⁷ If you are that kind of person... don't expect the Lord to give you anything at all. (CEV)

Hebrews 4:16 Let us, then, feel very sure that we can come before God's throne where there is grace. There we can receive mercy and grace to help us when we need it. (NCV)