

Sermon Notes -- Prayer Deepens Relationships 2 Timothy 1:3-4

I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. – 2 Timothy 1:3-4 (NIV)

The Gospel – *God wants everybody to have deep, vulnerable, joy-filled relationships with everybody. This is the joy of heaven!*

Prayer Creates Healthy Relationships With People.

We look for joy in relationships. But as we try, we find relationships are hard. And so joy becomes hard to find.

How Do You Get Over Relationship Walls? You Pray.

Paul loves Timothy. Paul knows when he sees Timothy, he will be *filled* with joy. So how did Paul get such a great relationship with this young guy Timothy? He prayed... constantly. Night and day, he prayed for Timothy.

Three Ways to Pray for Relationship

Brokenness

You may run into my brokenness. You may cause me pain and not even know you caused me pain. You may bring up a touchy subject. Or you may bring back a painful memory. And up goes my guard and down goes your joy because you touched a sore spot and my walls went up above my head.

Pray for God to show you brokenness. Pray for the healing of people's brokenness.

Unmet Needs

Some people don't have enough money. Some people don't have nutrition. Some people don't have enough experience. Some people don't have enough opportunities.

You may be struggling with relationship but the other person is lacking something essential for their life and isn't able to engage in a healthy relationship.

Evil

Evil is something in a person that wants to cause harm either to someone else or to themselves.

You have to be careful with evil. It is interesting though, that Jesus says in Mark 9, "Evil only comes out with prayer."

A great place to begin with relationships is prayer. Prayer gives you insight into people. Prayer can show you some background information that you couldn't get any other way. Prayer can help you understand what's going on in another person's life.

I want you to pray right now for one specific person and ask God to give you insight into their life. Once you see people in a new light, relationships are easier.

**Questions to Ponder -- Prayer Deepens Relationships
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Agree/Disagree:

- ___ Relationships are the most important thing in creation.
- ___ There is no deeper joy than a deep and lasting relationship.
- ___ There are certain people who I will never be able to have a healthy relationship.
1. How is someone else's brokenness or unmet need my problem?
 2. Does everyone have a little evil in them? (Want to others or hurt themselves)
 3. How does prayer change a relationship?
 4. Do you pray for your relationships?
 5. Who should you start praying for?

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