

WEEK 1 • STEP 1 OF 9

Relationship with God

The Foundation of Prayer

"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you."

— John 15:7 (NKJV)

Have you ever tried calling someone you barely know and immediately asked them for something important? There is an awkwardness to it — a thinness in the conversation — that you can feel even before the words come out. But when you call someone who truly knows you, someone with whom you share history and trust, the whole exchange is different. It breathes differently.

Prayer works exactly the same way. And that is the starting place for everything in this series.

Before Jesus said anything about what we could ask for in prayer, He started with something else entirely. He started with a word: abide. "If you abide in Me," He said, "and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you." The secret to a powerful prayer life is not a better method. It is a deeper connection.

Think about a grapevine and its branches. A branch does not produce fruit by trying harder. It does not strain or strategize. It simply stays attached to the vine — and because of that connection, life flows through it naturally. The fruit is not the result of effort. It is the result of remaining.

This is the picture Jesus gives us of prayer. When we stay connected to Him — through time in His Word, through honest conversation throughout our days, through inviting Him into the ordinary moments we usually navigate alone — something begins to shift. Our thinking starts to align with His. Our desires begin to reflect what matters to Him. And our prayers begin to move from duty to conversation.

There is a man in Scripture who understood this better than almost anyone. Moses began his walk with God hesitant and resistant, trying to talk God out of his assignment at a burning bush. But over years of walking with God through impossible circumstances, something changed. His prayers changed. In one of the most revealing moments in the entire Bible, God offered Moses the fulfillment of His promise — but not His personal presence. And Moses said: if Your presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here. He chose the presence over the promise.

That is what a real relationship with God produces over time. Not just answers to prayer — but a hunger for God Himself.

The power of prayer flows from a relationship with God. Not from the right words. Not from the right method. From the connection itself.

One Place to Start This Week

- Talk to God today the way you would talk to a trusted friend — honestly, without performing.
- Choose one ordinary moment in your day to pause and invite Him in.
- Ask Him one honest question you have been hesitant to bring.

*Want to go deeper? For the full story of Moses at the tent of meeting — and a deeply personal account of what happens when that connection grows thin and how it is restored — Step 1 in **How to Get Prayers Answered** goes there with you.*

This is where every other step in this series is built. Come back next week as we explore what happens when relationship leads to the next natural thing: trust.

Coming Up → Week 2 — Pray in Faith: Trusting the God Who Hears You

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