

Prayer: Conversations with God

Chapter 47 Summary

Chapter Learning Objectives

- The participants will explore how prayer is essential to our relationship with God and is an ongoing conversation with God.
- The participants will examine Scripture and how people have been talking to God throughout history.
- The participants will understand that by persisting in prayer, even when it is difficult, we grow closer to God and allow his grace in our lives.

Content Summary

1. Prayer is our way of staying in touch with God.
2. The Holy Spirit teaches us to pray through Tradition, the living transmission of God's truth to us. The Holy Spirit in the Church keeps the lines of divine communication open between us and God.
3. Any time you take a moment to raise your heart and mind to God, you are praying.
4. The history of God's people shows us that prayer is always a back-and-forth exchange: God reaches out to us, and we respond.
5. When we take time to pay attention to God, we recognize his love and *grace*—his presence in our lives.
6. When we pray, we can take a few moments, or we can spend a longer time in quiet listening.
7. We can “pray always” by being open to the presence of God throughout our day.
8. Sometimes prayer is difficult. Distractions can interfere with prayer. Sometimes we wonder if God is listening. Sometimes we feel separated from God.
9. During these difficult periods, we can remain faithful. We can continually turn back to God in an act of *conversion*—a change of heart, a turning again toward God who loves us beyond all our understanding.

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