I continue to wonder why prayer is so hard for us. I’m trying to think through what I am really thinking when I don’t pray. Perhaps it is that we have a hard time admitting that we really do need the Lord’s help. I guess I often think, “I should be able to handle this and not bother Him with it” or some such ridiculous thing.

Perhaps it is that I feel too much like a failure. “Here I am again in this mess.” Perhaps it is just laziness, or busyness, or something-ness.

The bottom line is that all too often prayer gets squeezed out of my life, at least the kind of quality conversations that I think we all want with each other. I want them with God as well, but somehow settle for less. Maybe I am not convinced that He wants them with me!

That is where our focus for this week comes in. I am trying this week to focus on God as my Father—one that wishes to spend time with me. He wants to hear from me, but wants me also to listen to Him. It is, in fact, for this great privilege that God sent His Son to redeem us. He is buying us back from our sin master. He wants to adopt us as His children. (Romans 8:4-7; Galatians 4:4-7)

That relationship more than any other thing in this world defines us. That relationship more than any other privilege draws us.

This week as I am making a considered effort to spend more time in Prayer, I am beginning with the words, “Our Father” and contemplating what they really mean. I actually have been phrasing the beginning of the conversation as, “Dad, can we talk?” He has yet to respond that He is too busy, or isn’t interested.

Questions to consider: Prayer

1. What is different about God being our Father who is in heaven than an earthly father?

2. Does the fact that our Father is in heaven influence the way we pray? Why or why not? Positively or negatively?

3. How do we bring heaven to earth in our relationship or conversation with our Father?

4. As we spend time this week focusing on praying to our Father, consider adding the description that He is our Father in heaven.
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