



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Prayer Walk Mall Series, Lesson 26

Lesson Title: Walk the Entire Mall – Praying for an Hour

Take Home Point: Pray!

Warm-Up:

Imagine a young man who desires a relationship with a woman he knows is interested in him. He gives her an occasional quick telephone call and says, "Hi! I was busy today and so I don't have much time to talk, but I'd really like to get to know you better. Bye!" In some of his spare time he reads books about how to develop a relationship with a woman; every once in a while he looks at a picture of her and admires her beauty and character. He learns what he can about her from her friends and asks if they will mention his name when they speak with her. But he doesn't spend time with her; he doesn't tell her what he's thinking or feeling; he doesn't stop to listen to her. What do you suppose is the likelihood any relationship will develop and grow?

Read: 1 John 5:14

Observation (What happened?):

Who do we get to approach in confidence?

What does he promise to do when we ask anything according to his will?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What allows us the privilege of approaching the Almighty God with confidence?

What does it mean that he hears us when we ask anything according to his will?

Insight:

We often hear that praying is mostly for our benefit, since God already knows what we are thinking and feeling before we tell him. But did you know that our talking to God is important to him? What does God desire from us? A relationship built on trust. He trusts us with his word and his name, and he wants us to trust him by expressing our thoughts and feelings, fears, joys, concerns, questions, and requests to him just as we would a close friend. We won't surprise, shock, or anger him. But we will show him that we consider him a confidant. To whom do you tell your most private thoughts – strangers? Not likely! We confide in friends we trust. Don't you appreciate the trust it shows when someone confides in you? Imagine how much more so it is for God, who made you and longs to be your constant friend and companion. And we can do this with confidence, as Hebrews 4:16 tells us: *"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."* (NIV)

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How much time do you spend every single day with God in prayer? Do you do it with confidence that you are asking for things according to his will?

When is the last time you spent one hour alone with God? Can you make that much time a priority this week?

Kingdom Quest year 2