

**Be Still: Cultivating Intimacy with Our Father**  
September 9, 2007

“Keys to Good Communication”  
Matthew 6:5-15

Introduction:

Polls tell us that nearly everyone prays. Unfortunately they also report that few are satisfied with their prayer life. In other words, most long for greater intimacy with God, but cultivating it can be difficult. This morning we'll learn some of the keys to good communication with our heavenly Father.

Interpretation:

Good communication with God requires:

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Application:

## Going Deeper

1. On the scale of one to ten below, choose the number that best describes your current practice of prayer.
  - 1 = no communication currently and no desire to communicate with God
  - 3 = sporadic but some desire to increase communication with God
  - 5 = a daily practice of prayer, and longing to grow in communication with God
  - 7 = passionate life of prayer, intimately connected with God throughout the day
  - 10 = praying without ceasing, completely dependent upon God
2. What do you feel you understand well when it comes to prayer, and what do you feel you don't understand at all?
3. Considering today's sermon, how, if at all, do the following sins prevent you from cultivating intimacy with the Father?
  - Pride – Matthew 6:5
  - Manipulation – James 4:3
  - Duplicity – James 1:5-8
4. Considering today's sermon, which, if any, of the keys to good communication do you need to embrace more thoroughly?
  - Secrecy – Matthew 6:5-6
  - Submission – Matthew 6:7-8
  - Single-mindedness – Matthew 6:9-13
5. What is one, or two, of your "take-aways" from today's passage of Scripture?

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