

**Sermon Notes – Sunday 26 May 2019**  
**Life in the Spirit: Prayer**

Discuss the following statement: *The greatest danger facing the church today is not numerical decline, struggling finances or aggressive secularisation but lukewarmness.*

How much does this apply to us as a congregation and to yourselves as individuals?

To what extent do lukewarmness and prayerlessness affect each other? Consider Romans 12:11,12

**Read Matthew 6:5-15.**

- Find evidence that Jesus expects his followers to be people who are given to private prayer (verses 5-7).
- In the light of verse 8, why does Jesus expect us pray at all? What does our private prayer say about our relationship with our heavenly Father?
- Discuss how you might use the Lord's prayer (verses 9-13) as a "template" for your private prayer.
- Look up the following verses, noting how much Jesus prayed to the Father, and what he praying for in each case: Luke 3:21; Luke 6:12,13; Mark 1:35; Luke 9:18; Matt 14:23; John 17 (skim through this); Luke 9:29; Matt 26:36-29.
- Why do you think that Jesus prayed so much to the Father? What was their attitude to one another? See John 14:31 and 15:9.

Discuss what Andrew Murray (1828-1917) wrote about John 14:16,17: *The connection between the prayer life and the Spirit life is close and indissoluble. It is not merely that we receive the Spirit through prayer, but the Spirit life requires, as an indispensable thing, a continuous prayer life. I can be led continually by the Spirit only as I continually give myself to prayer.*

**Read Romans 8:14-17,26,27.** When you pray, are you aware of the Holy Spirit's role in your praying (verses 14,15)? How much do you allow him to take over when words fail (verses 26,27)?

Consider the implications of the following verses: Phil 4:6 and 1 Thes 5:16-18.

In the remaining time, make use of the privilege described in Hebrews 4:16?

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