New Beginnings Community Church
Date: October 25, 2026
Speaker: Senior Pastor Hurmon Hamilton

Life Group Discussion Notes

CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS: How to Pray–And Hear from God!

Scripture used: Luke 11:1–2 (NLT); Matthew 6:9–13 (NKJV); Acts 9:10–12 (NIV)

OVERVIEW

Prayer changes lives, often in ways we could never anticipate. Pastor Hurmon shared three remarkable testimonies: a struggling family whose faithfulness was met by unexpected generosity, a grandfather who survived two life-threatening illnesses, and a man who overcame homelessness and addiction through years of his mother's prayers, eventually becoming an associate dean at Stanford University. These stories remind us that God is always listening, remains with us through suffering, and works in and through our lives. Yet prayer is about more than asking God to intervene. It is an ongoing relationship, a dialogue in which we speak to God and learn to recognize His voice. As we deepen our prayer lives, we move beyond asking what God can do *for us* toward discovering what He wants to do *in us* and *through us*.

KEY POINTS

1. **Prayer is a dialogue, not a monologue.** God invites us into a personal relationship where we both speak and listen. We should pray with the expectation that He will respond. God can speak through Scripture, dreams and visions, other people, recurring patterns, and quiet whispers. We must listen with discernment, testing what we hear against Scripture and the character of Jesus.
2. **Prayer can take many forms.** There is no single correct posture or method for prayer. We can pray while walking, kneeling, driving, or lying in bed. We can journal, sing worship songs, or use Scripture and traditional prayers. Our conversations with God can include praise, thanksgiving, confession, forgiveness, intercession for others, personal petitions, and cries for strength. Embracing this diversity keeps our prayer lives fresh and meaningful.
3. **Prayer is both personal and communal.** Prayer is not simply about *me*, but also about *we*. There is tremendous power in praying together, whether as a family, a small group, or a congregation. When we share our hopes, struggles, and gratitude with God and one another, we strengthen our relationships and grow together in faith.
4. **Deeper prayer leads to deeper transformation.** Our prayers often begin with asking God to change our circumstances: "God, do something for me." As our relationship matures, we begin asking Him to change our hearts: "God, do something in me." Ultimately, we invite God to use our lives to bless others and accomplish His purposes: "God, do something through me."

DISCUSSION

1) **HEAR** - Prayer is more than a spiritual practice or a way to ask for help. It is an ongoing conversation with a loving God who listens, speaks, and walks alongside us. As we grow in prayer, we learn not only to trust Him with our needs but also to make ourselves available for His purposes.
2) **UNDERSTAND** - When you pray, how much time do you spend speaking compared with listening? How might God already be speaking to you through Scripture, people, or circumstances? Are your prayers primarily focused on what God can do for you, or are you also inviting Him to work in and through you?
3) **DO** - This week, experiment with a new way of praying, such as journaling, praying Scripture, or praying together as a family. Set aside a few quiet minutes each day to listen for God's voice. Make this your prayer: "Lord, do something for me, do something in me, and do something through me."

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