

It's Nothing Personal

Faith and Faithfulness

Prayer is all about a relationship. That makes it incredibly personal. But in order for prayer to be what it should be, we need two things. First, a conviction that God is present. Second, the commitment to be present as well. We pray because He has asked us to. Because of that, it doesn't matter what "happens" during prayer. God shows up. And so do you.

Discussion Questions

1. If you could go back to kindergarten, what is one thing that you wish you had started practicing and stuck with (so that you would be an expert in it now)? For example, "I wish I had started learning Cantonese/the violin/gymnastics/yodeling...".
 2. One of the struggles in prayer is being convinced that God is present. And yet, this is essential for us. Would you mind sharing your experience with faith in God's presence or struggling with faith in God's presence when you pray?
 3. Peter, James, and John had an experience that strengthened their conviction that Jesus (God) is present and among them. While many of us have never had an experience as powerful as this, have you ever been absolutely convinced of God's presence? Discuss.
 4. Our response to God's presence is "our presence". Since God is always "there", virtually 100% of holiness will be over the question: "Are *you* there as well?" Why do you think that it is so hard to make time to pray? Discuss.
 5. We will never be saints unless we pray. But we experience obstacles. What is the single most difficult obstacle that you encounter in your commitment to be consistent to daily prayer? Discuss.
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God in Real Life

1. Please do the exercise that I mention at the end of the homily. Write down on a piece of paper or in your calendar when you will take 15 minutes each day this week to read and pray with the day's gospel reading. In addition, tell Jesus that you "will be there". This is personal.
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To the Heart

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of him". ~1 John 5:14-15