Maria Donnelly, with a Master’s degree in Instruction, has served over twenty years as an educator. As a Licensed Minister she has served as Bible Teacher, Christian Education Superintendent, Women’s Ministries Leader and Children’s Pastor. Raised in the inner city of Philadelphia, Maria understands the unique struggles the impoverished face and believes that the Spirit-filled teaching of God’s Word will transform communities, towns and eventually the country. Maria and her husband, Tom, serve together at Five Rivers Assembly of God in Elkton, Maryland. They have three active teenaged sons.

Personal Real Dialogue Answers Yearning Energizing Relationship

Prayer Is...
Maria Donnelly

Prayer means different things to different people. Unfortunately, many see it as asking God for stuff. But, it is so much more. If we understand and participate in, it is the lifeline to a genuine and vibrant relationship with God.

Prayer is personal, the honest cry of the heart. Since God knows everything, it is a waste of heart and time to try to cover up true feelings. God knows them anyway. In prayer, we can be honest about our ministries, friends, spouse, and our congregations. God cares empathizes with us. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Hebrews 4:15

Prayer is real dialogue; real talk between you and God. God cares what is going on in your heart. Prayer is a dialogue. You talk and God listens. And He wants to talk back; wait for the answer. Listen with your heart as well as your mind as God speaks back to you through the Holy Spirit and His written word. Don’t rush the dialogue. It takes time.
Do you rush through times with your spouse or a cherished friend? If you do then the relationship will suffer. The same is true with God. Take time to listen for God’s responses to your concerns and requests. God does speak. He spoke to Adam and Eve, Abraham, Moses, Job, David, Gideon, Deborah, and on and on and on. He continues to speak to our hearts today.

Prayer is always answered. The answer will either be Yes, No or Wait. We can trust God to answer in a way that will be best for us. You can trust God hears you and that His answer will work out for the best, even if it is not the way you planned. He answered their prayers because they trusted in Him. 1 Chronicles 5:20 The Psalmist wrote in Psalm 150:1 I call on the LORD in my distress, and he answers me.

Prayer involves a yearning or a hunger for the presence of God. Hebrews 11:6 describes the faith that pleases God, ...anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. We come into His presence as worshipers. I will enter His gates with Thanksgiving in my heart. I will enter His courts with praise. Psalm 100:1 Yearning for God is expressed in worship, our reverence, desire and adoration of Him.

Prayer is energizing. When we enter God’s presence he pours His Holy Spirit upon us. The Holy Spirit empowers and energizes us with His supernatural power. We become bold, eager to act and step out in faith to serve Him. God assures us He will fill us with His power. Praying in the Spirit connects you to the power you need. Jude 1:20 tells us to pray in the Holy Spirit so our faith can be built up. Further the book of Ephesians 6:18 reminds us, And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Prayer energized our life.

Prayer is the essence of our relationship with God. In prayer we are in God’s presence and experience God’s favor and blessing. Without prayer, we are alone and working in our own strength. This is why the scripture admonishes us to Pray without ceasing. 1Thess 5:17. We can all attest to times when we neglected to pray and we were weak; we made the wrong decisions and we were ineffective in our ministries to our spouse, children, or congregations.

Prayer is the lifeline to God and His work in our lives.