

“The Prayer Path”

(The First of the 5 Paths in our *Disciple’s Paths*)

Based on Mark 9:16-18, 23-29 (NIV)

September 9, 2018

Rev. Roger Madden, preaching

Mark 9:17-18 & 28-29

17 A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech.

18 Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not."

28 After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?"

29 He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer."

† **Prayer is for my sake and for the sake of my relationship with God.**

† **When I pray, I invite God to participate in my life.**

† **When I pray, I reveal my understanding of God.**

† **I pray because I know prayer is powerful.**

Mark 9:29 - He (Jesus) replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer."

† **The Spiritual power of God belongs to God.**

† **Prayer is to demonstrate my complete reliance on God.**

† **The Spiritual power of prayer comes only when I turn from self to God in daily faith.**

Applying Today’s Message to My Life:

† Why do I pray?

† How often do I pray?

† Do I pray only when I want God to do something for me?

† When do I pray for others?

† When did I last communicate with God as I would a close and trusted friend whom I have a relationship with?

† What is one way I can work on my prayer relationship with God this week?

Discipleship Pathway - First United Methodist Church, Sioux City, Iowa

	A) Beginning in Christ	B) Growing in Christ	C) Maturing in Christ	D) Sharing Christ
Prayers (Spiritual Disciples)	I do not pray on my own or outside of a worship service. I do not read Scripture.	I take time each day to be in prayer and I occasionally read Scripture.	I pray for others and I have a daily devotional including reading Scripture.	I integrate spiritual disciplines into my daily life.
Presence (Worship & Small Groups)	I attend worship once a month.	I attend worship twice a month.	I attend worship twice a month and I am in a small group.	I attend worship unless I am working, ill, or out of town and I lead or regularly participate in a small group.
Gifts (Ministry, Time & Money)	I am unaware of the gifts God has given me. I do not give of my time or money.	I have identified my spiritual gifts. I give sporadically of my time and money.	I have found intentional ways of using my gifts within the church. I give regularly of my time and money.	I mentor others with similar gifts. I continue to give regularly of my time and money (tithe).
Service (Mission at FUMC)	I do not serve with the church's existing missions. I might serve if someone directly asks me.	I ask to serve with one of our existing missions.	I already serve at least monthly in one of the church's existing missions.	I help to lead mission and am attentive to new opportunities.
Witness (Evangelism)	I do not talk about my faith to others.	I talk about my faith if asked.	I openly discuss my faith.	I openly discuss my faith and actively invite others to church and small groups.

Discipleship Pathway Self-Assessment

(Choose which answer identifies you the best then match your answers with the chart above)

1. This best describes my **Prayer** life:

- A. I do not pray on my own or outside of a worship service. I do not read Scripture.
- B. I take time each day to be in prayer and I occasionally read Scripture.
- C. I pray for others and I have a daily devotional including reading Scripture.
- D. I integrate spiritual disciplines into my daily life.

2. This best describes the importance of **Presence** in my life:

- A. I attend worship once a month.
- B. I attend worship twice a month.
- C. I attend worship twice a month and I am in a small group.
- D. I attend worship unless I am working, ill, or out of town and I lead or regularly participate in a small group.

3. This best describes how I use my **Gifts**:

- A. I am unaware of the gifts God has given me. I do not give of my time or money.
- B. I have identified my spiritual gifts. I give sporadically of my time and money.
- C. I have found intentional ways of using my gifts within the church. I give regularly of my time and money.
- D. I mentor others with similar gifts. I continue to give regularly of my time and money (tithe).

4. This best describes my life of **Service** with the Church:

- A. I do not serve with the church's existing missions. I might serve if someone directly asks me.
- B. I ask to serve with one of our existing missions.
- C. I already serve at least monthly in one of the church's existing missions.
- D. I help to lead mission and am attentive to new opportunities.

5. This best describes my **Witness** to the wider world:

- A. I do not talk about my faith to others.
- B. I talk about my faith if asked.
- C. I openly discuss my faith.
- D. I openly discuss my faith and actively invite others to church and small groups.