

Remodel Part 2 – The Power of Prayer (7-21-2019)

Remodel: Finding the palace in the prayer closet

Introduction: Brennen - my go to repair call. I know Him, and He's good.

The Lord's Prayer (Matthew's Gospel – in the midst of the Sermon on the Mount)

Matthew 6:9-13 (NKJV)

(9) In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. (10) Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. (11) Give us this day our daily bread. (12) And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. (13) And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

1) Position: Adoration & Reverence

Matthew 6:9 (NKJV)

In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

Note: Jesus begins by encouraging us to remember our Position

- **Our Father:** This is a word of Familiarity & Intimacy!
 - Jesus referred to God as Father 165 times in the Gospels. Only used 15 times in the entire OT.
- **Hallowed:** This is a word of Reverence & Awe. Hallowed means: Held sacred, revered.

We must learn to hold these 2 ideas together, and prayer is the first place we can put this into practice!

- Without viewing God as Father: He becomes a distance God – unknown, impersonal
- Without viewing God in Reverence: He becomes our “pal” and the relationship becomes flippant

When I position myself properly, then I can understand prayer accordingly. Who's in charge? Is He capable? Does he love me? Does he care? What about dis-appointment when he says no?

Our Position is one of Adoration & Reverence

This concept must move from a general feeling, into the realm of the actual. Therefore, the next part of the prayer is closely associated with our Position as it moves us into the practical . . .

2) **Permission:** Surrender & Devotion

Matthew 6:10 (NKJV)

Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Note: This is where the remodel really begins! Consider . . . What do you mean when you pray your kingdom come & your will be done? Will I truly hand over the reins? How much do I mean this?

- This prayer is more radical than we might suppose, and it is reflected in 2 stories from Jesus life . . .

Matthew 4:8-10 (NKJV)

(8) . . . the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. (9) And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." (10) Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND HIM ONLY YOU SHALL SERVE.' "

Note: We are offered “kingdoms” all the time, but we are never truly in charge, we always serve someone.

- **The biggest lie of our age is an old one:** That I am in charge, I’m free to choose, to follow my heart, to follow my desires.
- **Jesus refused to buy this lie.** Because of His position (Adoration & Reverence), Jesus could willingly give the Father permission. Jesus chose Surrender & Devotion over comfort and ease!

This wasn’t in just a passing temptation while worn out & hungry. This was a hallmark of His life, culminating and finding its ultimate fulfillment on the cross . . .

Matthew 26:39-41 (NKJV) – (In Gethsemane, He takes “The 3” and shares his sorrow & asks them to pray) (39) He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will." (40) Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? (41) Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Note: We are prone to weakness & temptation – prayer is where we find strength in surrender!

Whatever place we draw a line and say “here, but no farther.”

- That’s the place where intimacy & adoration ends.
- That’s where we drift into comfortable & neglecting.

We sometimes wonder why our prayer is powerless & feels like empty words – try acting on what you pray and see if that changes anything!

- Will you have the courage to surrender and let Him be in charge?

If our **Position** is to be one of **Adoration & Reverence**; then, we must give Him **Permission** to be in charge.

The way we live out our position is by **Submission & Devotion**

3) Provision: Feeding on His Word

Matthew 6:11 (NKJV)

Give us this day our daily bread.

Note: This feels like a pivot in the prayer, a sudden change of direction, but that is wrong. This is how we ask Him to do what we cannot. We need Him to sustain us!

Matthew 4:1-4 (NKJV)

(1) Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. (2) And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. (3) Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." (4) But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD.' "

- Satan comes when we are weak & hungry (playing on our desires)
- Satan questions our position – “If you are the Son of God”
- But, Jesus understands what truly sustains Him – the bread that is God’s Word.

Jesus is quoting from the book of Deuteronomy, when Moses is reminding God’s People about His provision.

Deuteronomy 8:3 (NKJV)

So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, **that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.**

- Provision is something outside that you take in to fill you, sustain you, & strengthen you. Don’t look within for strength, look out to Heaven and invite God’s word in for substance and growth.
- Don’t live on yesterday’s manna – it has grown old, stale, and rotten.
- Eat fresh from His Word today. Humbly seek His provision!

Conclusion: Jesus teaches us to pray, by calling us to consider our **Position** (humble adoration), give God **Permission** (surrender & devotion), and look to Him for **Provision** (feed daily on His Word).