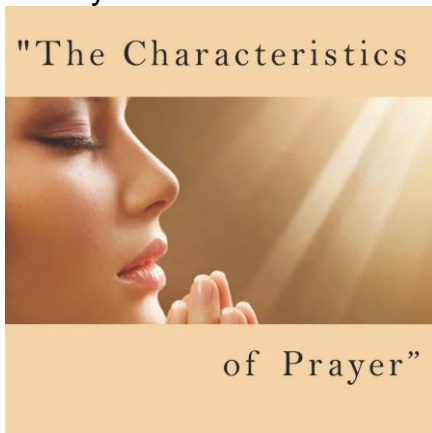


**Matthew 6:9**  
**“The Worship Of Prayer”**

3.6.16

**Turn in your Bibles to Matthew 6.** Today we continue in our sermon series: “The Characteristics of Prayer.”



We started last week with a 6-week series where we will be looking at what is called THE MODEL PRAYER or The LORD’S PRAYER. Last week with started with:

**The Characteristics of Prayer:**

- 1. The Purpose of Prayer**
- 2. The Worship of Prayer**
- 3. The Priority of Prayer**
- 4. The Provision of Prayer**
- 5. Forgiveness and Prayer**
- 6. The Protection of Prayer**

It’s been said that prayer is “a mighty instrument, not for getting our will done on earth, but God’s will done on earth.” We learned last week that prayer is simply sharing our needs and our burdens and most of all fellowship with our Heavenly Father. But prayer is not to be like a scratched record...

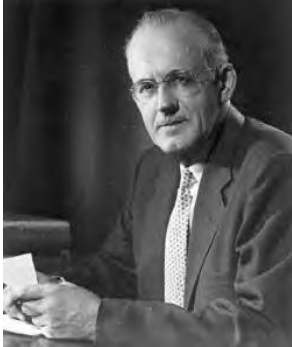


We are not to repeat our prayers in vain repetition. Jesus didn’t give us this prayer to be memorized or recited each time we pray. He was simply correcting the way the people had been taught and led by their religious leaders. We saw how we must be careful not to get into the habit of just SAYING prayers and not PRAYING prayers. After all, Jesus didn’t say, “Pray these words.” Instead, He said, “Pray like this.” This prayer is to be a pattern...not a specific prayer to be repeated. Look at Matthew 6:9 with me.

**Matthew 6:9**

## 9 Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Today we are going to see the “Worship of Praying” in that when we are truly praying we are actually bringing honor and glory to God’s name, desiring that His will be accomplished through our lives here on earth. What Jesus is doing with this Model Prayer is to contrast the false prayers of the Pharisees and religious leaders who were only seeking the glory and honor of men versus seeking the glory and honor of God. You see, church family, I believe we are a lot like the people A.W. Tozer was preaching to back in the 1930’s, 40’s and 50’s. This is A.W. Tozer.



Tozer was born in 1897 in western Pennsylvania. He came to Christ, when he was 18 years old one day walking home from work at a tire company. On his way he overheard a street preacher say, "If you don't know how to be saved...just call on God, saying, 'Lord, be merciful to me a sinner.'" Well, when A.W. got home he climbed up into the attic of his parent's house and heeded the advice of that preacher and he admitted to the Lord he was a sinner and called on the name of Jesus and was saved. In 1919, at the age of 23...

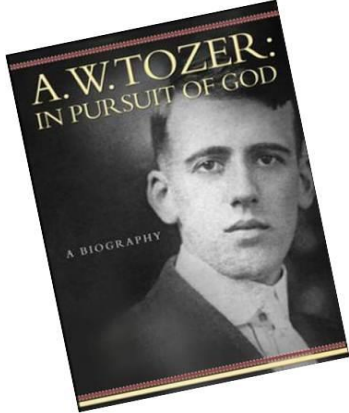


...barely five years after his conversion, and without any formal theological training (I know what that's like), A.W. accepted an offer to pastor his first church. He would pastor 44 years. A.W. and his wife Ada, had seven children...



Six boys and one girl. They lived A very simple, non-materialistic life and they never owned a car. They preferred a bus or train for travel. Even after becoming a well-known Christian author, A.W signed away much of his royalties to those who were in need. He died of a heart attack at the age of 66, three days after preaching his last message, “The Waning

Authority of Christ in the Churches.” (That’s the way I hope to go out...three days removed from the pulpit.) Two of his books became Christian classics and were bestsellers. One was titled: “The Knowledge of the Holy” and the second was: “The Pursuit of God,” which was a biography of his life.



Tozer is one of my favorite preachers. He was one of a kind and my heart and his heart are similar. I was reading a sermon text of one of the last sermons he preached in the early 1960’s. In the message he diagnosed a growing problem in the church of his day and offered his people heartfelt insight into what the pursuit of life should be.

What I’m going to do now is to read to you is a lengthy quote from that sermon.

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**“I believe I have surveyed the whole Church of God and I know something of Church history and the development of God through the years. And I believe I know something of the Scripture, and I believe I’m in a position wisely to tell you these two things.**

**One of them is the restoration of the vision of the most High God. You see, we have too low a view of God now, and that is why the Church has such a low place. The Church rises or falls, altogether depending on her view of God. If she takes a high view of God, her people are inclined to be reverent, worshipful and solemn and grave. If she takes a low view of God, they become funny and flippant and foolish and live worldly lives and give in to the flesh. But, if she takes a high view of God, she simplifies her church services immediately. If she takes a low view of God, she has to drag in every kind of theatrical cup in order to keep her people coming. It all depends on her view of God...**

**What is the chief end of man? To glorify God and enjoy Him forever. But as soon as we take a low view of God and get to thinking of God cheaply, as we do now; thinking of God as a pal, or He’s my partner, or He’s the ‘big man upstairs,’ or call Him by some another name, like the ‘Living All,’ as one girl said He was. Now, as long as we see God like that, we’ve never seen God. Imagine Moses trembling in the fire and smoke on Mount Sinai referring to God in any other way than in ‘awe-filled’ solemn terms?**

**What we need in the United States is a revelation of what the philosopher called the ‘Mysterium Tremendum: the Tremendous Mystery,’ and what the Bible calls ‘Jehovah,’ high and lifted up. Isaiah saw Him with His train filling the temple.**

**The trouble with you dear young people and God knows that I love you, as I’ve told you before, I do. I love young people. I love the twinkle in their eye. I love everything about kids and I love youth, but they are being cheated in this awful hour in which we live, because they’ve never seen God! And they’ve never seen many that have, and so you poor kids are**

the victims of an elder generation that never saw God. And so they've had to teach you by trying to drag in every clap-trap and game to try to keep you happy and if you are told the truth, you don't respect them for it. You just go along with it, but you don't respect them for it. My brethren, we have lost the high view of God and we desperately need to see God again!" A. W. Tozer (circa 1960)

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Church family, it is this high view of God that Jesus is describing in His Sermon on the Mount with this Model Prayer when He said, "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name." I desperately want us to see God and experience His presence and the most intimate way we can do this is in prayer. If we can grasp what Jesus is teaching here in this one verse, it could change the way we live our lives.

### **Matthew 6:9**

**9 Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.**

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I want you to notice that Jesus said "OUR" Father in heaven. He didn't say: "my" Father. Why? Because we are part of THE ONE family of God and we should remember that when we pray we have no right to ask for ourselves anything that would harm another member of God's family. We should seek to pray to honor His kingdom...His family...not our selfish desires at the detriment of another believer. **We are family here today and we are to take care of one another.**

Jesus then says, "Father." This is the Greek word: **Pater**, from which we get "paternal" or "paternity." In fact, the Aramaic word for Father is "Abba." Jesus used it often and it is translated "Papa" or in our vernacular: "Daddy." Now here's what's interesting. The Jews on that hillside didn't typically call God, "Father," for they were taught that would have been disrespectful. The Pharisees and teachers of the Law had made talking to God something that was very formal, rote and distant. But, Jesus is now inviting them to close fellowship with God in that we can call Him: Father.

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Listen, God is our loving Father and that's where prayer begins: realizing that all prayer begins with knowing that God cares. **Believer**, when you go to pray, please remember and recognize that your heavenly Father really, really cares for you.

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But, church as we are intimate with our heavenly Father in prayer, let's not get flippant and disrespectful. I actually heard a Youth Pastor teach this passage and I heard him say that we can address God as: "Dude" or "Man" or "God-Daddy." And when he said that, my spirit checked inside of me. Because even the young adults listening to him seemed uncomfortable with how flippant and silly he was being.

You see, there is a paradoxical rub here...

### **Matthew 6:9**

**9 Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.**

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We can certainly be intimate with God, yet please, please don't forget that He is intimately Holy. Remember, Moses stood before God and the burning bush in his bare feet because he'd taken his sandals off because he was standing on holy ground. Isaiah stood before God and His holiness and said, "Woe is me, I'm a man of unclean lips." Saul fell to the ground on the Damascus blinded by holiness and power from God's throne.

May we never forget the dimension of respect, reverence and awe in that we have the privilege of praying to the God of the universe. Yes, enjoy the intimacy of Him being the Father...but, never forget that His majestic holiness and magnanimous, infinite power are beyond anything you could ever imagine.

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But, the Pharisees have forgotten that majesty...they have forgotten how David prayed in Psalm 86. David prayed:

**Psalm 86:12**

**12 I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever.**

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Much of David's life was lived under clouds of great burdens, but he rightly wanted to glorify God's name and that's Jesus' point in Matthew 6:9. I want to talk now about the name of God. Hallowed by thy NAME!

**Matthew 6:9**

**9 Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.**

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What's in a name? My name is Kevin. Kevin means: kind and gentle. I'm not sure that's true of me...but, that's what the name Kevin means. So, what does God's name mean?

Well, we know His name is Yahweh, which translated into English means: "I Am" or "Am" or could even be translated "Is." God's name means: EXISTENCE. Now here's the thing. The Jews had such a reverence for God's name that they wouldn't even say his name. Instead, they used the word: "Jehovah." It came about because the Jews were afraid to say God's name irreverently. So, they took another name for God "Adonai," which means: Lord, and they took the vowels from Adonai and mixed it with the consonants from Yahweh and came up with the name: Jehovah.

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And so a Jew wouldn't say Yahweh. In fact, if you go into an orthodox Jewish synagogue today, they still won't say Yahweh. But what Jesus is teaching here is much, much more than just reverencing God's name, whether you say: Yahweh, Jehovah, Father or even Abba/Daddy for that matter. What He is saying is that we are to respect God for WHO He is in an all-encompassing way. In other words, we are to reverence His essence...His person.

Let me give you a quick example. Do you remember after David killed Goliath how the Philistines were scared to death of him and all the people of Israel respected David greatly? The Bible says:

**1 Samuel 18:30**

**30 Then the commanders of the Philistines came out to battle, and as often as they came out David had more success than all the servants of Saul, so that his name was highly esteemed.**

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We would say that David had a good reputation with the people, right? The people weren't esteeming the letters in David's name: D-A-V-I-D. They were esteeming his name for what he stood for. We would say today that David had made a name for himself. In other words, his name is esteemed because his character is worthy of our praise. Therefore, in this context, David's name stood for the whole character of the person of David. And that's Jesus' point. "Hallowed be your name," means the entire character and person of God...not just His name Yahweh. A name is the whole person.

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Now we need to ask: What does it mean to hallow? Hallowed is an archaic word, yet it's still used in most translation because it's now so familiar in our vernacular, but do we know what it means. Here's the Greek word for hallowed.

### **Hagiazō (Hog-ee-ODD-zo)**

- 1. holy, set apart**
  - 2. revere, respect**
- 

Let's look at the first definition to be holy or set apart. To be set apart literally means to be different. Now understand this...not everybody who is different is holy, but **everybody** who is holy is different. We have to understand that? Not everybody who is different is holy, but everybody who is holy is definitely different.

You see, a lot of people who are "different" aren't holy, but holy people are definitely different. A holy person is different type of person. God is infinitely holy and He is infinitely different because He is in a totally different sphere from anything and everything. He has a different quality of being than anything that exists in the entire universe. He's different because He is infinitely holy.

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Remember in the 10 commandments how the 4<sup>th</sup> commandment the Jews were told to:

#### **Exodus 20:8**

**8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.**

To the Jew the Sabbath day was to be different than every other day.

So to be "hallowed" or "holy" means to be set apart, to be different, to have another sphere of living, to exist in another quality of existence. That's basically what it means to be holy. God lives in another sphere. God exists at a different level, holy and undefiled. And that's what He expects from us? Are you holy? Are you set apart from the world? Are you different?

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Jesus was teaching that we are to honor and reverence His name. How do we do that? Well, here comes the practical application of this message.

How can we most honor, reverence, respect and set apart God's name?

#### **Simple. With our lives! How we choose to live!**

You see, we let God's name be hallowed by how we live our lives in this world. But, I want you to understand something...remember...we are told in the 10 commandments not to take His name in vain. That's the 3rd commandment. And here's how the two go together. We are to reverence His name and not take His name in vain. But, many of us are taking His name in vain. No...You might not be cussing and using His name in vain...but, how you are living...claiming and professing to be one of His children, yet living in overt and known sin is just as much taking His name in vain.

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Listen, when we don't obey Him, we are taking His name in vain. We cannot know the fullness of hallowing His name unless we obey Him. So, let me ask you this question...

Is God's name be hallowed in you? In me? Are you a conduit for His holiness? Are you different? Are you set apart from the world? Can people see that you are a Christian by how you act, live,

talk and what you do?

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You see, next week, as we move further in this prayer we're going to see in verse 10 something else...something deeper. Look it at...

**Matthew 6:9-10**

9 "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. 10 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Do you want to hallow God's name? If you do, then you will live for Him and you will seek make God's name known throughout the world. You will seek His will to be done on earth...not yours. How is God's name hallowed in our lives? The simple answer is: when both our doctrine, (what we say we believe), matches our practice, (how we actually live), that's when we are truly honoring God!

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Listen...do you really want to pray to God and honor His name? Then live for Him! That's hallowing His name. "Hallowing His name," means that God is on display in me for the world to see. The Bible says:

**1 Corinthians 10:31**

31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

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I've mentioned David a couple of times earlier in the message and I want to close with David. **Turn to 1 Samuel 17.**

Remember when David showed up to bring some cheese and bread to his brothers and they are at a stalemate with the Philistines and a man named Goliath? No one would fight this giant blow-hard as he chastised and ridiculed and demeaned the name of God and the nation of Israel. David couldn't take it and he said, "Let me at this guy! Nobody is going to talk about our God that way!" He was furious! The prophet Samuel records the scene:

**1 Samuel 17:43-47**

43 And the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 The Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the field." 45 Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, 47 and that all this assembly may know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hand."

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And so, David fought in the name of the Lord to defend the name of God. And he defeated the Giant. He used his life to bring honor and reverence to the name of God and He became a man after God's on heart and I believe that's what Jesus is calling us to if we're going to reverence His name. David was different. He didn't back down. Will we be different? Will we defend the name of God and hallow His name by how we live? If we will, we'll have to be different...holy...like our Heavenly, who are in heaven.

Church I haven't been able to get A.W. Tozer's words out of my mind.



(ROP) He said: **"I love everything about kids and I love youth, but they are being cheated in this awful hour in which we live, because they've never seen God! And they've never seen many that have, and so you poor kids are the victims of an elder generation that never saw God... My brethren, we have lost the high view of God and we desperately need to see God again!"** A. W. Tozer (circa 1960)

Church, it's on us. This is our job! We are to make His name known throughout the world. We are to reverence His name by setting ourselves apart as holy, as He is holy! The question is: Will we do it? "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name." Let's live for Him and not take his name in vain!