

My Favorite Quotes, Thoughts, and Teachings on Prayer-

- *“Prayer is beyond any question the highest activity of the human soul. Man is at his greatest and highest when, upon his knees, he comes face to face with God.”
- Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones*
- *“If I should neglect prayer but a single day, I should lose a great deal of the fire of faith.” - Martin Luther*
- *“Even as a father and his child enjoy being together, so I must have this intimate fellowship with God each day.” - Andrew Murray*

Big Idea:

Sincere prayer brings glory and honor to God and joy and peace to the believer.

Why God wants us to pray?

1. Prayer increases our faith, trust, and dependence of God.
2. Prayer brings us into deeper fellowship with God.
3. Prayer allows us to be involved in God’s activities that are eternally important.

Think About It:

God is actively seeking fellowship with persons whose hearts are like His? We see this in 2 Chronicles 16:9 & 1 Peter 3:12.

- *[9] For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him.*
- *[12] For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”*

Jesus taught His Followers to Pray:

Prayer is not easy it takes time and practice. We need training. That’s why the Scripture records the model prayer of Mathew 6.

Notice that Jesus begins by telling his disciples how not to pray. You see this in Matthew 6:5-8... Jesus then gives the ideal directions prayer should take in vs. 9-14.

First the negative... Jesus gives two strong prohibitions.

#1 Do not pray as the religious hypocrites, that is do not pray for display. We do not pray to put on a show.

⁵“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

#2 We are not to pray in a way that uses meaningless repetition.

⁷“And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

- Please note: Jesus here is prohibiting mindless, mechanical repetition, not the earnest repetition that flows from the desperate heart. Will see in just a moment another section of Scripture that calls us to be persistent in prayer. There is a difference between imploring and mindless, mechanical repetition.

In the model prayer... verses 9-13... we see that prayer is based on the nature of God. There is an affirmation of God’s holiness and a resting on compassionate and mercy of God.

There are 6 petitions, divided into two equal parts:

- **The first three petitions are concerned with God’s nature and purposes.**
 - We are to pray on behalf of the holiness of God’s name, the primacy of His sovereignty, and the accomplishment of His purpose.
- **The second group of petitions is on behalf of the petitioners.**
 - One petition has to do with the supplying physical needs “give us this day our daily bread”. The other two are for the supplying of spiritual needs- for substance, the restoration of fellowship with God through forgiveness, and the maintenance of fellowship through protection from temptation.

Christian Worship and Prayer is Distinctively Trinitarian:

Our Trinitarian God is at work in different ways in our prayer life. This is vital to our prayer life. God has made known to us how we are to relate to Him. Therefore, Christian worship and prayer must be distinctively Trinitarian.

Robert Lethem highlights these two very important truths to remember in worship and prayer...

1. Here lies the basic premise of all God’s actions to us... it is... From the Father through the Son by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- Not only is our salvation a work of God, not only is it Trinitarian through and through, but it is initiated by the Father, accomplished by the Son, and applied by the Holy Spirit.

So, when it comes to our response to God in worship and prayer...we must see the reverse movement.

2. The grounds of the church's worship and prayer life are— By the Holy Spirit through Christ to the Father.

- This encompasses our entire response to and relationship with God from worship to the whole field of Christian experience. Our prayers should be distinctively Trinitarian.
- The Christian faith exists in an atmosphere saturated by the Trinity.
- At its most basic level, each and every Christian believer experiences a form of communion with the Holy Trinity.

Therefore in prayer we should have this mindset...

It is the Holy Spirit who creates a desire to pray and worship God. It is He who brings us to faith and sustains us in life of faithful obedience. In turn our access to the Father is exclusively through the Son, Jesus Christ.

- Like John 14:6 states... "No one comes to the Father except through him (that is Jesus)."
- Christ has offered the one perfect sacrifice for sins for all time, and we have access to the holy place... that is the presence of God... according to Heb. 10:19-20.
- Therefore we can approach with confidence the throne of Grace, knowing that our great high priest, Jesus, is there to intercede for us.
- Jesus introduces us to the same relation he has with the Father. He is the Son by nature; we are children by grace.
- And in light of this... we now call on God as "Our Father".

Prayer and worship are thus an exploration of the character of the Holy Trinity. Prayer is Trinitarian and understanding that will give us proper alignment when we pray.