



Beyond the Sermon

A Sermon Application Guide

Title: What is Prayer? (Spiritual Disciplines pt2)

This guide is designed to offer a simple tool for those wanting to take the next step with Sunday's message. You can print this guide to study on your own, or use it in a group and experience transformation together.

Message Theme & Prayer Focus

Prayer: A Matter Of Authority

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

"God, I desire your will above my own. Would you come and have your way in my family, in my home, at my job, and in my heart. Amen."

Key Truths

Prayer is powerful. It shouldn't be a chore, a burden, or something to check off of a checklist. It's an opportunity to connect with the Father on a personal level.

Why is it that most people don't pray? It could be because they are believing any number of myths about prayer. One of the myths being that prayer is an empty obligation. Many people pray only because they feel like they are supposed to, or that it's part of what's expected of them as a christian. Just because God desires something, doesn't mean it's going to happen. God's will isn't automatic, it works alongside our free will. God has plans for us but lets us come to him when we are ready.

Another myth about prayer is that we have to pray so God knows what we need. God already knows what we need before we ask him (Matthew 6:8). Prayer is more than a list of wants and desires, it's time set aside to spend with our father.

Genesis 1: 26 & 28 tells us that God placed us in charge over the Earth. We are taking care of what is God's but he has given us free will over it. In the game of chess there are rules that we all play by. God has rules that he plays by as well. Once he gave us authority and free will, he respects our decisions and space. Our God does not overstep, when we want God to come have

his way, we have to extend the invite, *'God, in the places where you have given me authority, I am inviting you to work.'*

God's power is not in question. Every time God does something on earth he does it in partnership with humans. In the stories we have of God working wonders and moving through humans, this is true: before God moved, they prayed. Prayer isn't about convincing God to do something, but it is a matter of authority. We get to partner with the God of the universe to see his will done here on earth and we get to invite him in to have control in our lives.

Practical Application

This week, take some time to engage in prayer in a way that you haven't before. That could be getting to a quiet place, dancing with the Lord, going for a walk, painting while talking to God, or even cleaning the house while praying blessings over each family member. God desires our time spent with him far more than a list of requests. He cherishes connection.

Key Verses

- 1 Timothy 2:3-4
- Matthew 6:8-10
- Genesis 1:26 & 28
- 2 Peter 3:9
- 2 Chronicles 20:3-4
- Exodus 14:19-31

Declarations

"God, use me.

God, I invite you into my family, I invite you to do a work inside of their character and mine.

I invite you into my job, decisions, dreams, and goals.

Where you have given me authority, I want you to be present and working. I give you permission to move and work in the places that I hold closest to me."

What's Next?

Now it's time to write down anything the Lord has spoken to you. Praise Him, Thank Him and ask the Holy Spirit to help you walk this out.

Scripture References

What Is Prayer?

1 Timothy 2:4 NKJV ...who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Matthew 7:13 NKJV “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.

Matthew 6:7-10 ESV “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. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven...

Genesis 1:26 ESV Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth...

2 Peter 3:9 ESV The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

Exodus 14:13-21 ESV And Moses said to the people, “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.” The Lord said to Moses, “Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground. And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.” Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.

2 Chronicles 20 ESV

Acts 10 ESV