

PRAYER
Your Kingdom Come
Matthew 6:5-13

Last week, we preached from John 2 about how Jesus cleansed the temple, saying loudly, "My Father's house is a HOUSE OF PRAYER." His disciples remembered that it was said of the Messiah, "Zeal for your temple has consumed me!" Jesus was passionate about this because the temple is where we meet with God! The resurrection made it possible for us to access God in the TEMPLE of our bodies! What a marvelous truth. But truly, if Jesus was passionate about the temple that day, has it changed any today? Now, we can come into the very presence of God . . . wherever we are! This is the wonderful beauty and power of PRAYER. I have been reading one of the best books on prayer that I believe has ever been written. [R. A. Torrey wrote The Power of Prayer](#) in 1924 during a time of great revival in Europe and in the U.S.A. Here is how he begins. [P. 13, 16]

Why do we struggle so much to pray? Why have we LOST the confidence that God does in fact still answer prayer? Would you like to learn what Jesus taught about prayer that could just change not only your life, but the lives of countless others as well? I would!

What is going on inside of us when we pray? Jesus said that our prayer life will REVEAL our very MOTIVES for praying, and those motives will determine the kind of RESULTS that we experience in our prayers.

EXAMINE YOUR MOTIVES IN PRAYER. Matthew 6:5-8 NIV

5 "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, **for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others.** Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 6 **But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.** 7 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

***Prayer should be a PRIVATE act of conversation with God, not a SHOW!**

If your prayers are only a PERFORMANCE for men, then your reward for prayer will be their PRAISE for your prayer. Don't expect any other answer!

[Do you want to be HEARD by God, or SEEN by men?]

*" Don't be like the HYPOCRITES . . ." [[Hypocrites=Pretender, Actor, Stage Player](#)]

They see MEN but not GOD.

God dwells in a SECRET PLACE. **[God is UNSEEN, but he is not hiding.]**

God promises to be FOUND by all who SEEK him. How awesome it would be if we could SEE HIM . . . SEEING US as we seek him! Furthermore, finding God

implies a DEEPER KNOWLEDGE of him. **It is the promise not only of ANSWERS to prayer, but to INTIMACY with God!**

[Vs. 7 – Babbling = Mindless repetition.] Jesus also taught that you do not have to pray FANCY, LONG, or REPETITIOUS prayers! **Prayer must not be measured by its LENGTH, but by its DEPTH . . . by its GENUINENESS.** Most Bible prayers are SHORT! **[Lord’s Prayer]** The WORDS in our prayers do not IMPRESS nor PRESSURE God. They are only meant to EXPRESS what is really needed by us to the Living God who already knows what we need. **He just wants us to DRAW NEAR to him as we seek to have those needs met!** In prayer, are you truly laying your HEART before the Lord, or just going through RELIGIOUS motions?

-How long does it really take to get REAL with God?

EXAMINE YOUR PURPOSE IN PRAYER. Matthew 6:9-13 NIV

9 "This, then, is how you should 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 today our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'**

OUR FATHER . . . :

*How do we embrace and reflect his fatherhood in our lives?

***Prayer should be a RELATIONAL interaction with your HEAVENLY FATHER!**

-Is God YOUR Father? **[Gospel Presentation]** [Creator vs. Father]

*Jesus told some religious leaders: "God is NOT your father, you are of your father – the DEVIL!"

Who is in HEAVEN: Refers to God’s SOVEREIGNTY over all that is over us!

-Heaven covers and is above all that overwhelms us.

-Heaven is the REALM of God’s PERFECT RULE. No rebellion in heaven.

HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME: [Don’t RUSH this!] **[A.C.T.S.]**

*OVERFLOW praise – Gratitude toward God. [Give thanks. Acknowledge awe.]

-What are you IMMEDIATELY blessed by or grateful for today? **[Feeling.]**

-How are you LOOKING for ways to praise God today? **[Thinking; Leads to . . .]**

*OBSERVATION praise – Meditating on God. [Nature, Character, Works, etc.]

-Learn and Celebrate his glorious NAMES! [Name=Character, authority]

*His name is HOLY [Holy=Sacred/Revered/Pure]

In prayer, we must FIRST take TIME to WORSHIP the One that you are addressing.

The FIRST FOCUS of prayer is NOT our NEEDS but HIS NAMES! Start with a 1,000,000 FOOT VIEW and then move down! Do we REALLY KNOW whom we are addressing when we pray? I was astonished by the prayer of HEZEKIAH in our reading plan.

2 Kings 19:14-19 NIV

14 Hezekiah received the letter from the messengers and read it. Then he went up to the temple of the LORD and spread it out before the LORD. **15 And Hezekiah prayed to the LORD: "LORD, the God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you**

alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. 16 Give ear, LORD, and hear; open your eyes, LORD, and see; listen to the words Sennacherib has sent to ridicule the living God. 17 "It is true, LORD, that the Assyrian kings have laid waste these nations and their lands. 18 They have thrown their gods into the fire and destroyed them, for they were not gods but only wood and stone, fashioned by human hands. 19 **Now, LORD our God, deliver us from his hand, so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you alone, LORD, are God."**

The GLORY of GOD is PARAMOUNT in a heart committed to God's purposes!

[Hezekiah lived during the lifetime of ISAIAH. [Isaiah 6 – "I saw the LORD . . ."](#)]

Hezekiah saw an amazing answer to his prayer, but before he saw that answer, he saw the LORD to whom he was praying.

Your FOCUS in prayer DRIVES your PERSPECTIVE!

-Praise does not first change our circumstances; it changes our thinking!

THY KINGDOM COME. THY WILL BE DONE!

What do you want to HAPPEN as a result of your prayers? "To get the answer I desire?" Jesus made it clear that there is only one kind of prayer that God will answer: The ones that originate in heaven! **REAL PRAYERS BEGIN IN, FOCUS ON, and LEAD TO HEAVEN.**

Make discovering and embracing GOD'S WILL the GOAL of your prayers.

[My first great prayer meeting with God as a teenager. [Why Revival Tarries?](#)]

***In what way are you ASKING GOD to REVEAL his will to you in your prayer time?**

-Are you asking what is CONSISTENT with his WORD?

-Are you willing to HEAR what you do not WANT to hear and TRUST HIS TIMING?

***OUR PROBLEM:** We start our prayers with the implication: **"MY kingdom come, MY will be done!"**

-How long does it take you to LAY DOWN YOUR WILL in order to recognize and embrace GOD'S WILL and ETERNAL PLAN?

-The hardest part of praying is SUBMITTING your will to God!

. . . ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN!

This is a reminder to pray for God's BIGGER WORK in this WORLD rather than just in my own life. But it also TIES God's bigger work in this world TO my life! So, how is God's will being done in heaven? PERFECTLY! Wouldn't it be great if his will could be done on this earth just like it is always done in heaven? I would just be thrilled if I was willing to do God's will in MY LIFE the way that it is done in heaven!

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD.

Come before God DAILY for your basic provisions and protection.

***Ask God for what you NEED . . . EVERY DAY.** [[MANNA was a daily provision.](#)]

-Our assumptions permeate our thinking.

-Our needs are being DROWNED by our wants!

-How intimately AWARE are you of God's involvement in meeting your needs?

AND FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS.

Give away what God has ALREADY given you.

*This prayer FOLLOWS the forgiveness that we receive from God in salvation!

-This forgiveness is what is EXPECTED by God for us to give to others.

-CONFESSION of sin is TIED to the RELEASE OF DEBTS that are owed to us due to the sins that others commit against us! **Matthew 6:14-15 NLT**

14 "If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. 15 But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Once we have entered into a redemptive relationship with Jesus Christ, he calls upon us to COOPERATE with him in dealing with the sins of this world as personally experienced by us!

*What WOUNDS still control you due to your REFUSAL to forgive?

*Your refusal to forgive makes RECEIVING further forgiveness impossible!

[God WILL NOT GRANT IT because we CANNOT receive it!]

*Your refusal to forgive others makes FORWARD PROGRESS impossible in your relationship with God! This is why some of you FEEL STUCK!

*God's forgiveness of our debts will PARALLEL the manner in which we RELEASE others from their debts to us!

*If you want clear fellowship with God and healing for yourself, you WILL FORGIVE those who have sinned against you.

*CONFESSION of SIN [DEBTS] should be SPECIFIC, NOT GENERIC!

-Common prayer: "Lord, forgive me of my sins." WHAT SINS?

*BERTHA SMITH: Sin LIST. ["Search my heart, O God!" **Psalms 139:23-24**]

Part of our callous attitude toward sin comes from our failure to SEE, OWN, and RENOUNCE our specific sins and failures! It is time to RENEW our sense of God's HOLINESS by addressing our sins regularly before God. My sins are committed one at a time, they break my fellowship with God in real time, and they must be confessed with clarity at the time that I become aware of them. Don't generalize your sins. Ask God to show you just how damaging they are to him, to others, and to your own spiritual and practical health!

LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL.

*Ask God for GUIDANCE away from contexts that would pull you away from him and for PROTECTION from the evil that surrounds us in this world.

-Am I failing to SEEK that protection and guidance by NOT realizing how CLOSE I am to temptation at any given moment? [Simon Peter – "Watch and Pray . . ."]

-Am I REJECTING God's PROTECTION by putting myself in contexts that I KNOW WILL LEAD me into temptations that can destroy me? [Friends/Places/Media Traps]

***Ask God to deliver you from the EVIL ONE.**

Satan is actively after you. Jesus warned Peter, James, and John to “watch and pray” lest they be tempted by the Evil One. They slept. Will we?

Let’s pray.

PRAYER 2023
Olive Branch Facilitation Guide
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Start talking

What is the greatest answer to prayer that you have ever seen?

Start thinking.

Why is prayer often such hard work?

Start sharing.

[Read Matthew 6:5-8.](#) In what way can the very act of prayer be hypocritical according to Jesus? How does praying “in secret” demonstrate faith in God? Why does it so often feel like God is hiding from us when we pray? How do you deal with that?

[Read Matthew 6:9-13.](#) How do you enter the presence of God in prayer?

[Read 2 Kings 19:14-19.](#) How does Hezekiah’s prayer beautifully illustrate what it means to really recognize whom you are praying to when you enter God’s presence? Why is this so important?

How do you discern God’s will about your prayers? Why is there always a battle between “Thy will be done,” and “my will be done?” How do you die to this?

Why are we instructed only to ask God for our “daily” bread?

Why is confession of sin and forgiveness of others so crucial to our prayer life?

How can prayer help to protect us from temptation and sin?

Start praying.

Ask God to teach you how to hear and seek his will in the burdens you are lifting to him.

Start doing.

Practice getting quiet before you pray.