

## The Truth Shall Make You Free Session 5

### The Truth about Prayer

#### John 8:31-32 King James Version (KJV)

<sup>31</sup>Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, if ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

<sup>32</sup>And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

#### I. **Review**

- A. The Word of God Sanctifies/sets us apart
- B. Truth is the key to possessing our inheritance
- C. Wherever there is a lack of truth, there is a lack of blessing
- D. Accept the truth of God's word regarding all beliefs
- E. The truth about righteousness
- F. The Truth about the Word of God

#### II. **What is prayer?**

- A. "Webster" = An address (such as a petition) to God in word or thought
- B. "Online Dictionary" – a solemn request for help or expression of thanks addressed to God or an object of worship
- C. Biblical Prayer
  1. Communication with/to God
  2. Includes praise and worship
  3. Includes petition (making requests)
  4. Includes intercession for others
  5. Includes partaking/receiving that which God has provided through covenant

#### III. **Common mistakes and misconceptions about prayer**

##### A. **All prayers are communication with God**

**(TRUTH – All prayer is not biblical communication with God)**

*Just because someone is praying doesn't mean they are praying in a way to get results.*

1. Other religions pray
2. Jesus spoke against the way some pray

**Matthew 6:5-7** – <sup>5</sup>And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. <sup>6</sup>But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. <sup>7</sup>But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

- a. Hypocrites love to pray
- b. These people prayed to be seen
- c. They have a reward – but not the reward of answered prayer
- d. Real prayer should be between you and the Father
- e. There is a genuine reward for genuine prayer
- f. Prayer is not vain (empty) repeated religious phrases
- g. It isn't the length of the prayer that gets results

*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.*

**B. Prayer is a time for me to tell God about all my problems  
(TRUTH – God already knows your problems)**

1. Prayer is not to be spent complaining
  2. Biblical prayer speaks of God's solution from His word
  3. A negative prayer – stays focused on the problem
  4. A positive prayer – changes focus to the solution
- Consider the example of how David wrote the Psalms*

**Psalm 3:1-8 (KJV)**

<sup>1</sup>Lord, how are they increased that trouble me! many are they that revolt against me.

<sup>2</sup>Many there be which say of my soul, There is no help for him in God. Selah.

<sup>3</sup>**But thou, O LORD,** art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.

<sup>4</sup>I cried unto the LORD with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill. Selah.

<sup>5</sup>I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the LORD sustained me.

<sup>6</sup>I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people, that have set themselves against me round about.

<sup>7</sup>Arise, O LORD; save me, O my God: **for thou hast smitten all mine enemies** upon the cheek bone; thou hast broken the teeth of the ungodly.

<sup>8</sup>Salvation belongeth unto the LORD: thy blessing is upon thy people.

### C. I Have an unspoken request.

**(TRUTH – There is no such thing as an unspoken request!)**

1. An unspoken request offers no direction for how, who or what we should pray for
2. An unspoken request is not specific
3. It is impossible to put faith with an unspoken request
4. An unspoken request does not qualify for the prayer of agreement
5. The only means of an unspoken request would be to request prayer for yourself or someone without giving detail of the specific circumstances. (Very limited)

### D. Scriptures for Consideration

**Philippians 4:6** – Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God

**1 John 5:14-15** – <sup>14</sup>And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: <sup>15</sup>And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him

**Matthew 18:19** – gain I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

- **All these passages speak of praying specifically (BE SPECIFIC)**

**E. I Need to get as many people to pray as possible because the more people I have praying, the better chances of my prayer being answered**

**(TRUTH – Biblical prayer was never established upon the amount of people praying)**

1. Notice Matthew 18:19 “If any two”
2. It is the prayer of faith that gets results

**James 5:14-16** – <sup>14</sup>Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the LORD: <sup>15</sup>And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the LORD shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. <sup>16</sup>Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

**F. I Must pray to get God to move.**

**(TRUTH – Prayer is not about moving God, prayer is receiving what God has already provided)**

Ask – Definition – to make a demand -comparable to a withdrawal on a bank account

**John 14:12-14** – <sup>12</sup>Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. <sup>13</sup>And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

*The word ASK here is to ask, to request, to demand, to petition – meaning that we ask from a position of confidence that the answer has already been provided vs a position of hoping that God will grant the answer*

*This also applies to Matthew 21:22, John 15:16 and John 16:23*

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**PERSONAL WORD FROM THE LORD –**

*My people should be saying “I RECEIVE” more than please move.*

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1. We do not bombard heaven to get results
2. We do not storm the gates of heaven
3. You can't force God to do anything that he hasn't already declared done. “God calleth those things that be not as though they were”  
Romans 4:17

**Isaiah 46:9-10** – <sup>9</sup>Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, <sup>10</sup>Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

**Romans 8:32** – He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all-how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?  
*Through covenant, God has freely given us ALL things!*