

All Kinds of Prayer The Prayer of Worship

I'm beginning a new teaching series on the different kinds of prayers found in scripture.

Binding and loosing, consecration, agreement, supplication, intercession...

Ephesians 6:18

*Pray in the Spirit on all occasions **with all kinds of prayers and requests.** With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.*

One of my favorite things to do is pray through The Lord's Prayer
(Read this aloud with me)

Matthew 6:9

"This, then, is how you should pray:

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

Give us this day our daily bread.

Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.'

This is a model of prayer we can follow and use.

- Most all of this prayer is in the imperative mood: **a command.**
- We have been given the authority to ask for and receive all these requests.

Notice, this prayer begins and ends with what: worship.

'Our Father in heaven, hallowed by your name,

Hallowed means **sanctified, holy, exalted**

- We begin with acknowledging the holiness of God, the power the glory of His name.

Then it ends with worship of Father:

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.

I think Jesus is teaching us that worship is the essence of prayer.

- Worship is something that should be coming out of our lips all day long.
- *From the rising of the sun to the going down of the same, His name is to be praised.*

Worship is not just something that should be part of our prayer life, but part of our entire life...daily life.

2 Corinthians 4

The theme of 2 Cor. 4 is persecutions, trials and temptations. Jesus told us to rejoice when we are persecuted.

2 Corinthians 4:15

All this is for your benefit...

That's a tough pill to swallow.

Trials, temptations are going to work for our benefit.

- God doesn't send the trial but has a way of turning them for your benefit.
- Romans 8:28.....all things work together for good.

God is so much greater than Satan that He is able to take what was sent for harm and turn it to be a benefit for you.

- You can get to the point that you don't resent the difficulties any longer.
- You start to see another opportunity to use the word of God, the sword of the Spirit to overcome and give glory to God.

All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

Here's how God turns cursing into blessing:

That through God's abundant grace God gives us in the midst of every tests and trials, results in us giving thanksgiving and praise to God.

Worshiping of God in the midst of tests and trials causes the problem to turn around.

Look at the worshipers being sent in front of the armies of Israel before battle.

- It gave great confidence to the armies.
 - It sent confusion into the enemy.

P/W strengthens you and confuses the devil.

And Paul says it's all because of God's grace toward us.

- His grace is certainly worthy of our thanksgiving when we're facing difficult times!

2 Corinthians 9:11

You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving.

God will also bring us blessings, so we can be generous in everything...and cause praise to occur toward God.

We are to praise God in the good times and the bad times.

Isn't it a shame that the good times can so often cause us to turn from God.

Get frustrated with God...become hopeless.

- It should be just the opposite.

But when you're in a season of blessing and God has shown His generosity to you...be ready to share that blessing...so that praise and worship is the result.

Very often...people come to church out of desperation.

We return to God when we're in trouble...and what does God do?

He delivers us...brings the answer.

And...we don't see them again.

The pain has been relieved...so we fall back into our old habits of neglecting the Lord.

The Lord told Israel:

Beware when you enter into the Promised Land lest you forget the Lord your God.

And many of the did.

They entered into so much abundance...that they neglect the things of God and the One who brought them there in the first place.

Colossians 2:6

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught and overflowing with thankfulness.

What is this telling us?

- We are to praise the Lord when we learn the word and see it working in our lives.
- You find out that you're more established, more stable in your walk.
 - And it causes more worship to come from your life.

Rooted and built up: established, growing up in Christ.

1 Timothy 4:4

For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving...

Worship and praise belong in every prayer.

Worship is not a prayer that stands alone, but thanksgiving is like an added ingredient that energizes that prayer.

Aren't you looking forward to heaven?

There will be a lot of worship in heaven, no need for prayers for our needs, for miracles, for provision...but worship continually.

- We need to learn it here, get practiced up.

Philippians 4:6

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

It makes me think of David.

David would begin to make requests known to God and enter right into worship and thanksgiving to God.

The bible says to pray without ceasing.

We can't make petition before the Lord without ceasing.

- But we can give him praise without ceasing.
 - "Thank you Lord...you're in control. Thank You Jesus, you're answering my prayers."

The Israelites, every time they entered into a new land, the first thing they did was make an altar to God.

- A place to worship, to thank him, to praise him.

In every new river you cross, every new venture you enter into, make an altar to God.

- Bring thanksgiving first.

What does thanksgiving do?

- It causes us to recognize that we don't know what the future holds, but thank God that we know He does.

Notice how this verse starts with: Don't be anxious, don't worry, then it tells you how.

- By offering thanksgiving and praise to Him.

Colossians 4:2

Devote yourself to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

Make a commitment to prayer, a determined decision to devote yourself to it.

Then, be alert, watchful, listening to the Spirit.

- We so often think that prayer is one-sided, us talking all the time.
- Prayer is also listening...relaxing into His presence.
- Open up your spiritual ears. Allow him to talk to you.
- You serve a great God that speaks to you.

And be thankful.

The bible talks about **waiting** on the Lord.

- One way we wait on Him is through worship.
- *They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.*

Your prayers may not last a long time, but your worship can continue on and on.

We've got to know how to be comfortable with praising and worshiping God.

1 Timothy 2:1

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone –

All kinds of prayers, then thanksgiving to God for watching over the requests and needs being met.