



**Do We Ever Truly Learn from the Past?
Learning Something That Jesus Would Want All of His Church to Know Today!
Psalm 78 Part 1**

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George Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel stated the following, “Rulers, Statesmen, Nations, are wont to be emphatically commended to the teaching which experience offers in history. **But what experience and history teach is this,—that peoples and governments never have learned anything from history, or acted on principles deduced from it.**” (Hegel 1914, 6)

This is really all of us. And for some reason, even more so the contemporary follower of Jesus Christ.



For the past twenty years, the teaching in most churches here in the west has not been exactly that which would be training folks up to be disciples. The result is the worldview now being reflected in the majority of this nation. George Barna reveals to us what his research points to.

“The most common worldview of all is perhaps the least well-known: Syncretism. Maybe that’s because it is not a carefully or comprehensively developed philosophy, but rather a hot mess of ideas that individuals accept without much circumspection.

Syncretism is a cut-and-paste philosophy in which each individual adopts a smorgasbord of ideas borrowed from multiple worldviews. It usually represents an inconsistent and chaotic philosophy, but even more so, it unveils the intellectual ignorance and moral and spiritual indifference of Americans. Don’t be lazy or disengaged when it comes to your worldview. That perspective impacts every decision you make every day of your life. If you do not thoroughly invest your mind, heart, and soul in getting your worldview right, you will pay a steep and constant price for that negligence.” (Barna 2026, 11-12)

And we are paying that price right now. For example, how well do we learn? Not only from what the Bible tells us, but also all the warnings from the Lord that are in the scriptures as well as the promises. Why is it we tend to forget the warnings and the obedience part and only remember the promise part? How about all the lessons and life examples?

Don’t spend a lot of time stressing over those questions because the answer is simple, something about the sin nature unless controlled by the Holy Spirit, we tend to forget stuff. In Psalm 78, we get a history lesson and for some of us, it may sound like us since we also tend to not learn from history.

When I was obtaining my degree in history, I was blown away by how many people do not know our own national history and keep trying to repeat the same errors that have failed over and over again in the past of this nation.

The same problem existed in Israel, the book of Judges is primary evidence of this and at the time of David’s kingdom, David is an example as well but so is the entire nation.

David’s son, Solomon would later talk about this problem of no one ever learning from history. Personally, I think it is our pride that prevents most from even wanting to study it.

What Asaph does though is take the written record of history plus possibly some current events to discuss with us his interpretation, that we don’t learn from the past and **when the Lord is involved in it, we need to learn from the past and then remember it as well**. We also need to look at this in the light of the writer and the material he is relying on. This is very different than how I was trained as a historian. John Walton explains.

“A modern empiricist historian’s response to ancient (especially Israelite) transcendent historiography might be: “It has not provided information that is reliable since it is so full of deity.” The ancient historian’s response to modern empiricist historiography might be: “It has not provided information that is worthwhile since it is so empty of deity.” The denial of supernatural causation by many of today’s historians means that any ancient document used in reconstructing a history that conforms to present-day standards needs to be “adjusted” by the modern historian to delete its nonempirical data and eliminate its supernaturalistic bias. Such may be considered necessary in order to present ancient history to a modern reader, who will want to read history expressed in the context of his or her own cognitive environment, but it represents cultural imperialism.” (Walton 2018, 192-193)



This is a bias we also must overcome as we study the scriptures as everything is filtered through our worldview. And until we arrive at a truly Biblical one, even thinking like a Jew at times, this will continue to be a struggle for all of us. Solomon was correct in his assessment.

Ecclesiastes 1:9–11

"History merely repeats itself. It has all been done before. Nothing under the sun is truly new. Sometimes people say, 'Here is something new!' But actually it is old; nothing is ever truly new. We don't remember what happened in the past, and in future generations, no one will remember what we are doing now." (NLT)

No one learns from history. He must have talked with Asaph. We see the same thing today, as interpreted for us by Peter of all people.

2 Peter 3:3–5

"Most importantly, I want to remind you that **in the last days scoffers will come, mocking the truth and following their own desires. They will say, 'What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again? From before the times of our ancestors, everything has remained the same since the world was first created.' They deliberately forget that God made the heavens long ago by the word of his command, and he brought the earth out from the water and surrounded it with water.**" (NLT)

No one learns from history, instead today, they rewrite it and then attack those who insist on the truth of events pointing to evidence.

History though is important. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are not asked by God, as Moyer points out, "to be gullible; He invites a look at the evidence. The Bible provides ample evidence of its inspiration.

Some of this evidence includes:

1. The Uniqueness of the Bible. The Bible is the most unique book in history. Written over a 1500–1600 year period, 66 books involving 40 plus human authors from various walks of life, cultures, perspectives, and circumstances, the Bible contains a thematic unity "that defies naturalistic explanations."
2. Prophecy. Hundreds of prophecies throughout the Scriptures, with their respective fulfillments, witness to the inspiration of Scripture...
3. Accuracy. Not only are the prophecies accurate, but so are the historical narratives. The Bible has been attacked both on historical and scientific grounds, and it has been the victim of historical reconstruction. However, these attacks usually come from subjective biases, not objective evidence. Even those of more modernistic persuasion are admitting that the Bible "must be treated seriously as a historical source".
4. The validation of Jesus Christ. Jesus' view of Scripture has already been noted. If He was a liar, then the Bible is a hoax. However, if He is who He claimed, then the entire Bible is validated by His own view. When one considers the historical testimony of Jesus—His life, death, and resurrection—then there is an ample foundation for establishing the truth about Jesus. Even when one looks at the Bible from an historical viewpoint, apart from the fact that it is inspired, then there is a consistent testimony about Jesus that cannot be ignored. If there is historical validity to the claims and works of Jesus, then this would also prove that the Bible as a whole is inspired by God, for Jesus said it was. Evidence for the resurrection is the final blow to all skeptics, including their views about the Biblical inspiration." (Moyer 1999, 78-79)



The Bible is our source and it is history, among other things. In this psalm, we get a recitation of the history of Israel from Egypt to the time of David.

The purpose of this psalm is to teach trust in God. To enable the teaching, the passing of history and knowledge to the next generation; to remember what He has done and to be obedient to Him considering the examples of disobedience and judgment that we now have. The idea is to end the disconnect that existed in Israel between being a Jew versus believing in and following the God of Israel.

We disconnect today between being a self-identified Christian, but many are living a life that reflects otherwise. And some do so more visibly than others and the culture sees that. Barna again.

“The Christian faith—or any belief system, for that matter, whether religious, political, emotional, or intellectual—has no power until the individual owns the foundations of that system. To become transformational, rather than merely informational or transactional, a foundation stone must blend those two facets (belief and behavior) into an indivisible act of ownership (personal identity) that helps to define who you are.” (Barna 2026, 14)

We see churches all around us today that believe that they have figured out a new interpretation of the scriptures, or a new and more winsome way of presenting Jesus. All involving a pandering to the culture and a watering down of the gospel. The sad truth is, they are driving at 100mph down the same road Israel drove down, more than once. Peace, good times, money, riches, it all draws us away from the Savior. In other words, history is once again repeating itself right now.

And the primary thing this psalm is here for, is to teach us that in Christ, history must not repeat because repeating it means unbelief has once again crept into place where it should not be.

James Boice says this psalm “recounts the history of the people of Israel in order to draw lessons from it—lessons as to who God is, what he has done, how the people responded to him wrongly in the past, and how they should learn from those past failures today.” (Boice 2005, 645)

We are called to remember yesterday as we prepare for tomorrow. Yesterday was supposed to be a lesson for us, something to assist us in doing life and moving on into the future. Not something to go and repeat.

It's so important for us as followers of Jesus to remember, He has actually commanded us to do so. This commanded remembering, which we indeed do, is called communion. We remember what He did on the cross for us here at Calvary at least once a month when we celebrate communion together.

For us today, the main point we are going to see in this psalm is that religion, which here is the Law of Moses, cannot change the human heart and make you faithful. Religion makes you feel better about yourself but in the end, you do not change at all and being faithful to the Lord is not a goal of religion. Religion wants to lock you into ritual so you feel like your being faithful when your life may not exactly look that way. There is the disconnect again. That was the problem going on in Israel.

We need Jesus Christ. He is the only one who not only can change our hearts. But with the Holy Spirit in us, being faithful and remembering becomes easier to do.

And one other thing that will become obvious, we need to train the next generation. Children do not become believers via osmosis. Salvation is not inherited. Faithfulness is not a natural given. Remember, we all are born with a sin nature and are all rebels.

We must take note of what is taught in the scriptures.



Proverbs 22:6

“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.” (ESV)

Let's look to our text in Psalm 78. It is 72 verses so we will take it a chunk at a time.

Psalm 78:title—4

“A Maskil of Asaph. Listen, my people, to my instruction; Incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable; I will tell riddles of old, Which we have heard and known, And our fathers have told us. We will not conceal them from their children, But we will tell the generation to come the praises of the LORD, And His power and His wondrous works that He has done.” (NASB 2020)

Here at Calvary Chapel, right now we do not have a children's ministry. Not for lack of wanting to have one, but we do not have many families with kids worshiping with us right now.

We meet on Sundays in a restaurant provided generously by Christopher and Elizabeth Taylor, and we are so thankful for them and the space they allow us to use. We do indeed have the room to do children's ministry, but because we are a new ministry, parents are opting to take their kids to other churches. We want to make disciples of children and adults. As part of that commitment to the next generation, we have partnered with Child Evangelism Fellowship to place a Good News Club into Seawind Elementary here in Hobe Sound. The Lord has resolved the hindrance that kept this from happening last year, and on October 15th, we kick off.

Please be praying for the kids who have already signed up as well as those who will be ministering to them. Also, be praying for their parents too.

Just as Asaph states, it is our responsibility to pass the gospel onto the next generation. We are doing that while also making disciples.

By the way, this was not just a responsibility for those parents in Israel, it is our responsibility as well. Parents and grandparents should be praying over their children and grandchildren. We have been commissioned to make disciples of all nations, and all generations too.

What we have here in the first four verse though is the overall purpose behind Psalm 78, it is setting the stage for everything that we see in this psalm. It is all about telling children, the next generation, about Jesus Christ and how much He loves us that He died on the cross for us. To see to it that they not only hear and understand the gospel, but are given the opportunity to respond and then grow up in Jesus as His disciple.

We are going to cross some things that make us wonder what the purpose is, but remember, it is right here in the first four verses.

We begin with the call to listen to this song, which is instruction. Asaph states he will tell us what we, meaning the nation of Israel, have heard and known because of the faithfulness of their fathers to tell them when they were young. In other words, this isn't new, but has the connection been made?

We also see that he is intentional with pointing the understanding towards the next generation. If we keep the gospel simple so that a child gets it, then we all can get it.

His intent is to train the next generation how to worship and praise the Lord.



As followers of Jesus, it is our responsibility to not conceal our faith from our children and grand children. There are those today who believe that children should be allowed to make their own decisions, but that is not what the Bible teaches. Here, and I agree with Jon Courson on this, “the psalmist says we are to teach our children in order that they might have hope in God rather than be beaten down by the storm of society and the chaos of culture. We need to constantly tell our kids about the blessings that will come their way if they walk according to God’s Word and the heartbreak they’ll experience if they choose a different direction.” (Courson 2006, 97)

Psalm 78:5–8

“For He established a testimony in Jacob, And appointed a law in Israel, Which **He commanded our fathers That they were to teach them to their children, So that the generation to come would know, the children yet to be born, That they would arise and tell them to their children, So that they would put their confidence in God And not forget the works of God, But comply with His commandments, And not be like their fathers, A stubborn and rebellious generation, A generation that did not prepare its heart And whose spirit was not faithful to God.**” (NASB 2020)

In the Torah, the Lord gave specific direction for the training up of children. A primary reason that history does indeed repeat without us learning from it, is that we neglect to actually take the time to teach our children and grand children. This is a problem that has existed for thousands of years. It is a serious problem in the life of the church today.

The second stated reason for this psalm is to follow the command as made by the Lord in Deuteronomy.

Deuteronomy 6:4–9

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. **You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.** You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” (ESV)

There were some, by the time of Jesus, that were of the mind that children needed to be kept away from learning about the Lord. Jesus ended that discussion rather quickly.

Luke 18:15–17

“Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But **Jesus called them to him, saying, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.** Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”” (ESV)

Kids have an advantage over us old fogies. They here and simply believe what God says. We need to be like a child and have that kind of faith as well. And if we don’t tell them, who will? What does the research point out as to how well we are doing on this training up idea just in the church here in the west? That was a question George Barna tried to answer for us based on research in 2023.

“To start with, barely one-third of newly minted teens (36%) believe that God exists and is the all-knowing, all-powerful Creator of the universe, who is perfect and just, and who rules the universe today. In contrast, closer to half (43%) are Don’ts—people who don’t know if there is a God, don’t believe in His existence, or don’t care one way or the other. At the same time, we find severe deficits in their knowledge of the character of Jesus. A majority of the youngest teens (61%) either believe Jesus Christ sinned while He was on Earth or hold open the possibility that He did. While they have heard that He was sinless and pure, most of them are not buying it. Things are no better when it comes to beliefs about God’s adversary.



Seven out of ten young teens (70%) either reject the existence of Satan or don't know if he exists. This is a major shift from the beliefs of their parents, who may not have given much thought to Satan's existence, but at least a majority of them believe Satan is real. That point-of-view has not been handed down from one generation to the next. The shakiness of the belief system of young teens is demonstrated by their thoughts about creation. Not even half of them (45%) believe that God created the universe. Even a smaller share of them—only one-third (31%)—accept the teaching that the universe and everything in it was designed, created, and is sustained by God.” (Barna, Raising Spiritual Champions: Nurturing Your Child's Heart, Mind and Soul 2023, 32-33)

We need a revival and we need it in the churches here in the west right now. All a revival is, is God's own people getting serious about God. Instead, the next generation is reflecting the mindset of their parents, who don't know and don't care.

Why am I so burdened for the kids? Because without Jesus Christ they are totally lost, like I was when I was that age. No direction, no hope and believing whatever the culture threw at me. It has taken decades to clean some of that out and some of it is still there clinging desperately for life. We really do not need to give the sin nature in young people any encouragement to grow or live.

We need to encourage them to come to Jesus Christ and allow His Holy Spirit to lovingly guide and direct them for their life as they are disciplined to become more like Jesus Christ.

Psalms 78:6–8

“So that the generation to come would know, the children yet to be born, That they would arise and tell them to their children, So that they would put their confidence in God And not forget the works of God, But comply with His commandments, And not be like their fathers, A stubborn and rebellious generation, A generation that did not prepare its heart And whose spirit was not faithful to God.” (NASB 2020)

This is a multigenerational thing. Each generation tells the next generation who tells the next and on and on until Jesus Christ comes to take us to Himself. That, based on what I see in the world today, can happen at any second.

What happens though if the ball gets dropped? And it was, multiple times in Israel as well as in the church over the centuries. You see, the goal is for the next generation to stand up for the Lord and be people of faith and not be like their parents.

Psalms 78:8

“And not be like their fathers, A stubborn and rebellious generation, A generation that did not prepare its heart And whose spirit was not faithful to God.” (NASB 2020)

We get a preliminary diagnosis per Hamilton, for the patient, the people of Israel, and their predilection to repeat history. More specifically, their own fathers. “First, that generation did not prepare its heart, and second, their spirit was not faithful with God. Unfaithfulness of spirit seems to result from the lack of a prepared or established heart.” (Hamilton Jr. 2021, 53)

I wish I could say that is not going on today, but it is. Public schools offer no spiritual guidance at all. But they will help your child become a better liar as well as help develop other traits you really prefer, they not bring home.

Let's talk about spiritual training. That is hard to do as well. We, for the most part, have believed the lies of the culture and as a result have given our children to the culture to learn from. When you give your child to the world to be trained, and they act like the world, why are we surprised at that?



Well, they go to Sunday School or Children's Church or Youth Ministry. If you are relying on 3 or 4 hours per week of the church doing the job. There is a massive problem with that idea. Being a Berean now also includes us asking the questions of those who we are entrusting spiritual knowledge and development of our children to as well.

Here at Calvary Chapel, we are indeed leaning into the Lord and looking to Him for everything and as a church, wanting to reflect what the Bible says and teaches in all we do. That is not popular, but it is what the Lord has asked us to do. But when you examine churches as a whole in this nation, ugh. The numbers from this 2022 study truly suck.

The Percentage of Christian Pastors that Possess a Biblical Worldview

Pastoral Position	% with Biblical Worldview
All Christian Pastors	37%
Senior/Lead Pastor	41%
Associate/Assistant Pastor	28%
Teaching Pastor	13%
Children's/Youth Pastor	12%
Executive Pastor	4%

Source: American Worldview Inventory 2022, Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University; N=1,000 Christian pastors; conducted February-March 2022. Note: the "All Christian Pastors" statistic is a weighted average of all five pastoral positions based on the proportion of pastors represented by each of the positions in churches nationwide. (Barna, American Worldview inventory 2022 Release #5: Shocking Results Concerning the Worldview of Christian Pastors 2022)

When it comes to our kids, Children and Youth pastors should be the best at what they do, but for the most part, they are brand new or right out of school or interns. And, as we have just seen, the numbers point to them not exactly teaching the Bible. I don't want to go too deep into George Barna's research results on this but when 64% believe there is no moral absolute truth, who are we trusting.

As parents, we are the ones who should be at the forefront of ensuring what it is children are receiving and I have only ever been in one church where the emphasis was on discipleship. All the others, it was a safe and fun place to be. Pizza too.

Parents want their kids to have "acceptable" friends and some exposure to Christian teaching. They need to learn how to be good boys and girls. But what about being like Jesus Christ? "Startlingly few parents mention lessons like truth, biblical authority, the nature and character of God, sin and salvation, biblical standards for morality, discipleship, and understanding purpose and success, which explains why just 12% of churches have children's ministers who are Bible-oriented." (Barna, Raising Spiritual Champions: Nurturing Your Child's Heart, Mind and Soul 2023, 179)

But let's be real, most parents themselves want to attend a church that is a fun and safe place where they can meet "acceptable" people to spend time with and get a little bit of Bible now and then too. Nothing too radical that will turn the nation upside down. Nothing that will hold me accountable for how I live and please, nothing on sin and eschatology or anything else that is "controversial." Just a nice respectable Laodicean church please.

Yeah, Calvary Chapel was not called to be that.



What we are seeing right now, the fruit is indeed all around us, are the results of more than one generation turning away from the Lord and chasing after other things that aren't wrong in themselves but have nothing to do with following Jesus Christ and making disciples.

And yes, the prior generation is now to be our example here in the psalm. We will be given "an example of a generation that forgot God's work and suffered God's judgment" (Hamilton Jr. 2021, 53) as Hamilton puts it.

Psalm 78:9–16

"The sons of Ephraim were archers equipped with bows, Yet they turned back on the day of battle. They did not keep the covenant of God And refused to walk in His Law; They forgot His deeds And His miracles that He had shown them. He performed wonders before their fathers In the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan. He divided the sea and caused them to pass through, And He made the waters stand up like a heap. Then He led them with the cloud by day And all the night with a light of fire. He split the rocks in the wilderness And gave them plenty to drink like the ocean depths. He brought forth streams from the rock And made waters run down like rivers." (NASB 2020)

The tribe of Ephraim is indeed being singled out here, but they are also being used as an example of the rest of the nation. There was a specific time where the people of Ephraim made the independent decision that unlike the rest of the nation, today we will not fight. We do not have a record of that in the scriptures. In the book of Judges, Ephraim was in the dominant position and should have been helping to shape the nation. The problem though is they squandered that and did not move to boot out the foreigners in the land, as Moses and Joshua had instructed them.

The lack of faithfulness and the non-utilization of their troops to assist Israel in removing the Philistines would come back to haunt them. Shiloh was in Ephraim yet under their watch Eli's two sons took the ark into battle and it was captured by the Philistines. By that time, it was already too late. That defeat did take place in their territory.

Why they are singled out here is it appears they led the way for the rest of the nation in not completing (Judges 1:29) what it was they were asked to do by the Lord in taking the land. They had the resources to help and lead and did not. So, slowly, the authority shifted. Philip Eveson restates for us.

"The 'day of battle' (verse 9) could either refer to Israel's defeat by the Philistines when they destroyed the sanctuary at Shiloh, situated within Ephraim's borders, and captured the ark of the covenant (see verses 60–61; 1 Samuel 4–6) or to Israel's defeat by the Philistines when Saul was killed (1 Samuel 31), the event that opened up the way for David to become king. In both cases Israel, though equipped for battle ('armed ... carrying bows', verse 9), 'turned back' or 'fled' from the scene." (Eveson 2014-2015, 50-51)

They did not keep the covenant of God and refused to walk in His law. That is a serious indictment all on its own but then we come to the real reason, they forgot. They forgot everything that God had done for them all the way from Egypt to where they currently are. God did it all and yet, they no longer remember it.

They forget His deeds, His miracles, His wonders, all of those things done by the Lord to convince Pharaoh to "let my people go." They forgot about the plagues, the protection of Israel versus the non-protection for Egypt. They forgot Passover. And Asaph continues with their litany of not remembering.

Psalm 78:13–16

"He divided the sea and caused them to pass through, And He made the waters stand up like a heap. Then He led them with the cloud by day And all the night with a light of fire. He split the rocks in the



wilderness And gave them plenty to drink like the ocean depths. He brought forth streams from the rock And made waters run down like rivers.” (NASB 2020)

This is a continuation of the list of those things that they forgot. “This will become a key theme in the psalm: God acts; the people forget that God acts; the people live as if God does not act.” (Chester 2024)

Tim Chester, Psalms 42–89, ed. Lee Gatiss, The Hodder Bible Commentary (London: Hodder & Stoughton, 2024), 308.

What we are seeing here is a listing out of the reasons why they should be following and trusting in the Lord, but they do not remember because the prior generation did not bother to tell the next generation about any of it. It was not important enough to them even though they were told to remember it.

Consider this for a moment, you were a child and you were there when the seas parted. The ground was dry and that surprised you as normally even the sand still has a bit of moisture, but this is dry. And the more amazing thing, no water spray on them of any kind.

On top of that, you remember the shade during the day even in the hot desert, it was always shady because of the cloud in front of you. Then on dark nights, especially when there was no moon, there was still light. At night the cloud turned into a pillar of fire to provide lighting for everyone. And God who is the one who did all of this.

You were there and saw Moses strike the rock and the gusher of water that came from it providing water for the animals as well as all the people. You think this would be talked about and considered over and over again. And in some homes, it was, but not all.

All of this God did for His people, and no one is remembering it as they should. God poured His grace down on His people over and over again and here we are now during the age of David and for most, meh. But we get a detailed listing of how, in His grace, YAHWEH led His people. He gave the people water; He gives us living water.

They took God's grace for granted. Are we guilty of doing the same?

How many claim the name of Jesus Christ and yet refuse to truly follow Him every day. I wonder how many of our excuses that we use today will make it when we sit across from Jesus and begin having our one on one with Him discussing how effective we were for Him once we came to Him. Sin is no longer the issue; He took care of that on the cross. Now that we are saved, how have we reflected our obedience to Him?

Psalms 78:17–20

“Yet they still continued to sin against Him, To rebel against the Most High in the desert. And in their heart they put God to the test By asking for food that suited their taste. Then they spoke against God; They said, “Can God prepare a table in the wilderness? “Behold, He struck the rock so that waters gushed out, And streams were overflowing; Can He also provide bread? Will He prepare meat for His people?”” (NASB 2020)

All that the Lord did for them, His grace and visible glory on display everyday and what do they do. They sin, rebel, and act like God is someone they can order around.

We need to walk very carefully here on this idea. God is God, He is not a great big genie in the sky taking orders and delivering goodies to us.



There are false teachers today who will tell you that you can, in prayer, using the appropriate formula of course, name something you desire, claim it, and God has to do it for you. That is not the God we serve. He is not the quid pro quo God. The one thing about the rules for prayer is, there are no rules for prayer. No format, no magic words, nothing.

When you begin to repeat words over and over again thinking that might get you what you want, you are in reality practicing witchcraft and trying to create your own reality.

When we pray, we are talking to the God of the universe. Keep track of what you and He talk about. Write down your requests, your answers, as well as those things you decide to cross off due to the Holy Spirit showing you it was selfish to ask for that. Dr. Mitchell reminds us of this too, and this gets to those of us who like to use a formula every now and then.

Jesus never taught or practiced any special sanctimonious prayer vocabulary as part of proper prayer protocol. Jesus prayed in the same vocabulary which He used in normal conversation. (Mitchell 1977, 144)

And don't let people hang you up on, "you have to pray out loud." I have actually had folks tell me that God only hears those prayers we say out loud. I guess no one told Hannah that as God answered her prayer even though Eli thought she was drunk.

1 Samuel 1:10–17

"She, greatly distressed, prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly. And she made a vow and said, "LORD of armies, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your bond-servant and remember me, and not forget Your bond-servant, but will give Your bond-servant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and a razor shall never come on his head." Now it came about, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli was watching her mouth. **As for Hannah, she was speaking in her heart, only her lips were quivering, but her voice was not heard. So Eli thought that she was drunk.** Then Eli said to her, "How long will you behave like a drunk? Get rid of your wine!" But Hannah answered and said, "No, my lord, I am a woman despairing in spirit; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but **I have poured out my soul before the LORD. Do not consider your bond-servant a useless woman, for I have spoken until now out of my great concern and provocation.**" Then Eli answered and said, **"Go in peace; and may the God of Israel grant your request that you have asked of Him."**" (NASB 2020)

And God not only answered her prayer but gave her Samuel. As a son.

Of course, Nehemiah prayed silently when his boss said what is bugging you. (Nehemiah 2:4)

And then the command that Paul gives us in 1 Thessalonians.

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18

"Rejoice always, **pray without ceasing**, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." (NASB 2020)

Unceasing prayer will include prayers that are spoken, whispered, shouted, sung, and silent as we direct our thoughts of praise, petition, supplication, and thanksgiving to God. (Got Questions Ministries 2014-2021)

We still have a few more miles to go in this psalm, it is the second longest psalm in the book. We will pick up next time on how the Lord responded to the nation when they rebelled in the wilderness. Let's pray.



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