

LBC Discipleship Course

Know Christ & Make Him Known Lesson 7: “Prayer & Dealing With Sin” (TC)

Matthew 7:7-8 – “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: (8) For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.”

Psalms 5:3 – “My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.”

Romans 6:6 – “Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.”

Romans 6:11-12 – “Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. (12) Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.”

PRAYER

What is prayer? Prayer is how man asks of/communicates with God.

I. Is Prayer Important?

- a. Prayer is important because God answers prayer!
 - i. Jerry Falwell, said the following: Prayer can do anything God can do, all our failures are prayer failures, (and) nothing of eternal importance is accomplished apart from prayer.
 - ii. Jeremiah 33:3 “Call unto me, and I will answer thee...”; John 15:7 “... ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.”
- b. Jesus Christ prayed before all the great crises in His earthly life.
 - i. He prayed all night long before choosing the twelve disciples and giving the “Sermon on the Mount” (Luke 6:12-13) and in several other situations. (Mark 1:35-38), (Luke 3:21-22), (Luke 9:18, 21, 22), (Luke 22:39-46).
 - ii. If Jesus so prepared for every important crisis by a season of prayer, should we also do the same? Is it any wonder we often make wrong decisions at critical junctures in our lives because we don’t pray?

II. How Should I Pray?

Many are intimidated to pray because they don’t feel like they know “how” to pray. What did Jesus’ own disciples ask Him in Luke 11:1? Teach us to pray! Jesus then describes to them how they should pray.

- a. You have direct access to pray to God through Jesus Christ, He is our mediator and intercessor to the Father. (I Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 7:25)
- b. We are to pray to the Father in Jesus’ name. (John 16:23, 26)
- c. Should I repeat the Lord’s prayer exactly when I pray?
 - i. In Matthew 6:7, Jesus just gets done warning against using vain, repetitious prayers. In verse 9a he says to pray “after this manner”, not “in these exact words”, this is very important to understand.

1. One Bible Commentator states, “How strange it is that this very prayer should have become the very thing it was designed to prevent!” (Coffman New Testament).
- ii. A basic understanding of how to pray can be seen in an acronym for “PRAY”:
 1. Praise – Start your prayer with an attitude of praise to God. (Matthew 6:9)
 2. Repent – Ask God to forgive you where you fail Him. (Matthew 6:12)
 3. Ask – Praying for God’s glory and will, the needs of others, then for yourself. (Matthew 6:11)
 4. Yield – Surrendering your life to be used by God, seeking His will for your life. (Matthew 6:10)

III. Why do some of my prayers not get answered?”

- a. God is our heavenly Father and all His ways are perfect. There will be times when, in His perfect wisdom, the best answer to our prayer is “no” or “not yet”. In these times we need to simply trust Him.

Dealing With Sin

Romans chapter 6 gives us a guide to the truth of sin in our lives and how we should handle it.

I. Realize grace is not a license to sin! (v. 1-2)

- a. If sin generates grace, should we sin more so that we can receive more grace?
- b. To a legalistic Jew, grace was hard to handle. They thought, if God’s grace is poured out on a sinner, why not sin more so you can receive more grace? (Romans 3:8; 6:1).
 - i. There were some in the early church who were looking at grace as a license to sin (Jude 1:4). That since they were no longer under the law they could live like they want.
 - ii. What was Paul’s answer? God forbid! (Romans 6:2)

II. Realize you have identified with Christ. (v. 3-5)

- a. Baptism – derives from a verb meaning “to immerse” or “to identify with”.
- b. If we identify with Christ, we should not align with sin.
- c. We no longer have to serve sin because we have a new Master. (Matthew 6:24)

III. Reckon or consider yourself as being dead to sin. (v. 6-12)

- a. Our physical body is where our sin nature reigns. One day when we physically die we will be delivered from the presence of sin, but while we still physically live, Jesus Christ has given us the ability to be delivered from the power of sin. In our mind and spirit we must “reckon” or “consider” our flesh to be dead to the power of sin.
 - i. Sin is a decision. The words “let not” indicate that we *DO* have power over sin!

IV. Realize when you are alive to God you have the victory over sin (v. 12-23)

- a. Jesus triumphed over sin, death, and hell, and when the believer gets saved he dies with Christ but also lives to be victorious with Him.
- b. Paul tells believers in verse 12 to stop letting sin reign in their body, or in other words, don’t keep losing when you have the ability through Christ to win!

Conclusion: In our battle with sin, God has already given us the victory over sin in order to live righteous and holy lives. It is up to us if we want to continue to be a slave to sin and unrighteousness, or to be a servant to God and live holy lives. It is a decision that we make daily. The question is who we are yielding to. To be victorious in our day to day battle with sin, we must STOP presenting our bodies as weapons of warfare to Satan to be used for unrighteousness. Instead we need to yield or present our bodies as weapons of warfare to God to be used for righteousness. You can be victorious because you are set free from the law.

Jesus taught very clearly that you can only have one master (Matt.6:24). It is our choice in our day to day lives who we choose to yield unto.