

Prayer – part 1

Reading: **Matthew 6:1-15**

- As I began to study this topic I thought I would look up Webster's definition of prayer and assumed after examining the secular response that I'd give a corrected or spiritual definition. But I was surprised to see that they pretty right on.

Prayer: (Webster's)

1. A devout (earnest, sincere, loving) petition (request, supplication) to God.
2. A spiritual communion with God in supplication, thanksgiving, or adoration.
3. The act or practice of praying to God.

- Bible study is food for the spirit. Without it, you'll become weak and sickly.
- In the same way, prayer is breath for the spirit. Without it you'll choke and eventually suffocate and die.
- Jesus set the example in His prayers.

Luke 11:1 “And it came to pass, that, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, one of His disciples said unto Him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.”

- The disciples saw that His prayers were intimate, like talking with a close friend and they wanted to learn how to have the same close relationship with the Father that Jesus had.

Matthew 6:9-13

- Referred to as the “Lords” prayer – because He was the first to utter it. In actuality it is the disciples prayer because it is intended for us – it is a model prayer:
- Not that we pray these words by rote continually, but it is an example and there are components that we should incorporate into our own prayers.

“**Our Father**” – (Proper address, direction) Abba – Daddy – personal relationship Vs Old Testament relationship.

- El Shaddai – “The Mighty One”
- Elohim – “The Strong One”
- Yahweh – The unspeakable word which means “I am that I am”
- Why the name change? Did God change? No!

Malachi 3:6 “For I am the Lord, I change not;....”

- **We changed:** our relationship changed – for the better!

2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

“*Father*” speaks to a personal relationship with God. Otherwise without such a relationship our prayers would be meaningless.

“*Which art in Heaven*” – lest we forget our relative positions. He’s always due our reverence and worship, not to be referred to in casual terms lacking the reverence He is so worthy of.

Ecclesiastes 5:2 “Do not be rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter anything before God. For God is in heaven, and you upon earth; therefore let thy words be few.”

V: 9b Hallowed by thy name: Your name is Holy, You are Holy – lift Him up on high, magnifying Him.

“*Hallowed be Your name*”

Hallowed: G-37. hagiazo, hag-ee-ad'-zo; to make holy, i.e. purify or consecrate; (mentally) to venerate:--hallow, be holy, sanctify.

Psalm 8:9 “O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!”

Isaiah 57:15 “For thus says the high and lofty One that inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.”

Philippians 2:9-11 ⁹Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: ¹⁰That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; ¹¹And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Peter

Acts 4:12 “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

V: 10 1st petition: “*Thy Kingdom come*” – come quickly Lord Jesus.

Revelation 22:20 “He which testifieth these things saith, surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!”

2nd petition: “*Thy will be done*”, God’s will be done.

- **Thy kingdom come!** Come quickly Lord Jesus – but in the mean time: **Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**
- God's will is done instantly in heaven, no questions, no hesitation – absolute obedience.
- May it be so here on earth; emphasizing God's will be done, not ours.

Romans 12:2 “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

Jesus praying to His Father said:

Matthew 26:39 “... O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.”

“On earth as it is in heaven.” There is no questioning God's will in Heaven, there is no struggle between the will of God and the will of the angels, or saints – God's will is perfect.

V: 11 3rd petition – our needs – proper sequence is important. We can't give to others what we don't have.

“Give us”- ask, humble yourself!

James 1:17 “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”

James 4:3 “... ye have not because he ask not.”

Psalm 34:15 “The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are open unto their cry.”

“this day”, not knowing what tomorrow will bring.

James 4:14-15 “¹⁴Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. ¹⁵For that ye ought to say, if the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.”

Matthew 6:34 “Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.”

“Our daily bread” – of life.

John 6:35 “I am the bread of life. He that cometh to Me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst.”

Matthew 4:4 “...it is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”

John 4:34 “Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.”

Psalm 34:8-10 ⁸“Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that trusteth in Him! ⁹Oh, fear the Lord, ye His saints! For there is no want to them that fear Him. ¹⁰The young lions do lack and suffer hunger; but they that seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing.”

V 12 *“Forgive us our debts”* Asking God’s forgiveness should be a constant part of our prayers.

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Psalm 51:1-17 Turn there.

Psalm 32:1-2 ¹“Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. ²Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.”

“As we forgive our debtors” - extending forgiveness to others.

Ephesians 4:32 “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”

Matthew 18:23-35 Turn there.

Colossians 3:12-13 ¹²“Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.”

- This is the only part of the prayer that is later elaborated upon in verses **14 & 15**.

V: 13 “Lead” = “Leave” – into temptation:

James 1:13 “Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted by God; for God cannot be tempted with evil, nor tempteth He any man.”

1 Corinthians 10:13 “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above what ye are able, but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”

- “Evil” = “the evil one”

“For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”

- Having come full circle: Acknowledging His position and ability, giving Him glory!

Psalms 29:2 “Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.”

Isaiah 42:8 “I am the Lord: that is My name: and My glory will I not give to another,…”

Philippians 4:6-7 “⁶Be careful / be anxious for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. ⁷And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

There are different types of prayer:

1 Timothy 2:1 “I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;”

1. Supplication: petition, or request – when we ask God to supply our needs.
2. Intercession: when we pray for others, such as for healing or salvation.
3. Thanksgiving and praise: Giving God the glory He so richly deserves for what He has done and for who He is. This is part of worship.
4. Prayer is talking with God not just to Him. It is time spent in His presence.

Different types of prayer.

How to be sure that your prayers are answered.

Reasons why your prayers are not answered.