

Request and Be Ready 2020-09-20

Matthew 6:7-13

“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. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this:

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Review: Prayer is first and foremost for fellowship with the Lord not co-laboring.

- Foundation of prayer based on sonship not friendship. Our Father.
- Begin prayer in Word with reverence for who God is...His character.
 - All of who God is demands a response on our part. Matthew 6:9-10
 - helpless/needy but not hopeless because of who God is.
- Through reverence and response the Lord can transform our hearts from self-centered to Jesus-centered and that impacts what request (how most start prayer).
 - Reverence > response, > requests.

Holy Spirit tutors us to make requests according to will of God. Romans 8:26-28, Sanders

- Consistent with God's Word/values/purposes, with God's glory as supreme motive
 - Many of same needs surface but from God's perspective not ours.
- Holy Spirit teaches us how to pray as Jesus would pray where He in our circumstances.
 - Pray for government like Paul/Jesus did. Matthew 5:44-48, 1 Timothy 2:1-2
 - Reason I like 40 days....focuses on personal/church in USA

Requests usually for resources, relationships. Matthew 6:7-8, 11, James 1:5, Hunter

- Resources “daily bread” = all needed to sustain life as serve Lord.
 - Not informing God of needs, He knows before ask.
 - Express trust in God as definer/provider of our needs.
 - Personal/family/friends/missionaries needs and concerns.
 - Paul's requests for growing faith/love of Christians for God's glory.
 - Wisdom for ourselves and others.
- Relationships: Confession and restoration—both vertically (with Lord) and horizontally (with others). Matthew 6:12, Acts 24:16
 - Salvation for lost, repentance for self and other Christians.

2 ways to pray for requests that bring great glory to God: corporately and specifically.

- Prayer is mentioned 21 times in Acts - all inherently corporate. Lord's prayer all plural pronouns

- Prayer with each other is being family/body and fosters God glorifying unity.
 - This Wednesday 9/23 promo
 - Praying specifically brings specific answers and more glory to Lord.
 - Your child ask, “Bless me with a blessing?”
 - Prayer's outcome is trusting our God, not trusting in outcome of our prayers.
- Reverence (who is God?), response (how respond to 1st truth?), requests (relationships & resources), readiness ...where go from here? Matthew 6:13, 1 Corinthians 10:13
- Readiness: prep to get off knees and reenter war zone.
 - Pray to be battle ready through trust in Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - Pray be part of answer to requests. Men’s ministry...*Dangerous Prayers*
 - Prayer gives our actions/efforts their power/success.
 - Prayer must be our first resolve not our last resort if our work is to be marked by unmistakable power of Holy Spirit.
- Scripture fed, Spirit led, worship-based prayer structured around reverence, response, requests, readiness is a prayer pattern that ebbs/flows
- Not meant to be a master but a servant of Holy Spirit.
 - My hope: you'll try this and the Lord use it to deepen your intimacy with Him, increase your faith, impact family, community, world for God's glory and your joy!

Prayer is a means God uses to give us what He wants. *W. Binghim Hunter*

“Prayer in the spirit is prayer whose Supreme object is the glory of God, and only in a secondary sense is it a blessing for ourselves or for others.” *J. Oswald Sanders*