

11.03.19 ~ "How We Should Pray," Matthew 6:5-15

Matthew 6:5-8... This prayer focuses on God's Divinity, Sovereignty, and Fatherhood. God's children are to pray with sincerity, in a manner that is honoring to God. We should not pray to be heard by men, nor with "meaningless repetition" like the pagans who babble on with many words.

Nor should we recite or repeat prayers thoughtlessly; for nowhere in the NT is a prayer used in a repetitious or ritualistic manner. And we don't have to convince God of a need we have, for He knows what we need, even before we ask Him!

Matthew 6:9, "Pray, then, in this way:"

This is a guide, telling us to Whom, for What, and How we are to pray.

Matthew 6:9b, "Our Father who is in heaven,"

God is the Creator of all but the Father only of those who come, through Jesus Christ, into the Family of God (**John 1:12-13; Galatians 3:26**).

Matthew 6:9c, "Hallowed be Your name:"

God's name is Holy and we are to revere, honor and glorify Him. We must prayerfully acknowledge Him in every detail of our thoughts, our words, and our actions (cf. **Colossians 3:17, 23-24; 1Corinthians 10:31**).

Matthew 6:10, "Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

God's sovereign rule in heaven is not being exhibited on earth. Men sin, men die, and men go to hell; even though it is not God's will for people to sin, die, or go to hell.

God commands us to pray His will be done on earth: God desires for everyone to repent of sin, believe in Christ, and be saved (**1Timothy 2:3-4; 2Peter 3:9-10**).

God commands His children (believers and followers of Christ) to obey His Word with a willing heart in all that we do (**Romans 12:1**).

God is allowing for sin to run its course and for Satan to reign over all those who oppose God, for a time; but sin and Satan will end just as God has determined, and all who reject Jesus Christ will go to Hell (**2Peter 3:3-7; Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10, 15**).

Matthew 6:11, "Give us this day our daily bread."

Bread is symbolic of the sustenance we need for our physical and our spiritual needs. Jesus is the bread of life (**John 6:35-41**) who came down from the Father in heaven.

Our Provider is the Father, and His servant Jesus Christ is His Provision. We ask God to supply our basic needs through Jesus Christ; the schedule for God's provision is daily, not weekly, monthly or yearly, but daily; and often it is moment by moment.

Matthew 6:12, "And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."

This is not talking about financial debts, it is talking about sin, our spiritual debt to God was paid in full by Christ. Sin separates mankind from God and is our greatest enemy; our greatest need is forgiveness, and that is what God provides when we confess our sin to Him (**Joel 2:32; Acts 2:21; Romans 10:13; 1John 1:8-10**).

Because the Father is forgiving, His children are also to be forgiving (**Ephesians 4:32; 5:1-2**).

Matthew 6:13a, "And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

This has to do with temptations, trials and testing, through which we are enticed to sin by feeding the flesh and/or not trusting God. God tempts no one, but He does allow us to be tested (**James 1:13-14; 4:4-10**).

We appeal to God to place a guard over and around our eyes, ears, mouth, feet, and hands -- so that, whatever we do, where ever we are, we will not give in and do that which is sinful (**1Corinthians 10:13; Romans 12:9**).

We are all weak at times, when tempted to sin, and we need God's help to avoid the traps and snares set by the world, the devil, and our flesh; God has provided all we need to succeed (**2Timothy 3:16-17; Romans 12:2; 2Peter 1:3-4**).

We live in a cursed world and evil is all around us. Our flesh is weak and we are not equipped in our human resources to combat sin.

Therefore, we are to confess our need for the protection and deliverance that only God can give.

This great and divine lesson in prayer concludes with a reminder of how our own genuine and heartfelt forgiving of others, while at the same time being willing to receive their forgiveness, gives testimony and illustrates that we have indeed received the Father's forgiveness.

Matthew 6:13b [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.] *This addition to verse 13 is not found in the earliest manuscripts, but it is biblical.

1Chronicles 29:11-13, "Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O Lord, and You exalt Yourself as head over all. Both riches and honor *come* from You, and You rule over all, and in Your hand is power and might; and it lies in Your hand to make great and to strengthen everyone. Now therefore, our God, we thank You, and praise Your glorious name."

Matthew 6:14-15, "For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions."

God has forever removed the eternal penalty of sin from all true Christians. However, sin does effect our present joy and ability to serve God, therefore, we confess our sins in order to receive day-to-day cleansing from sin that corrupts us, and in order to that we stay intimate with God.

Hebrews 12:7, "God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?"

God disciplines us as sons and daughters when we disobey Him; therefore we confess our sins (cf. **1John 1:9**) in order to receive dad-to-day cleansing, like washing our hands after having contact with something dirty, although the rest of our body is clean.

Having received God's forgiveness, we forgive others; for an unforgiving spirit is inconsistent with one who has been forgiven (**Matthew 18:21-22**), Peter asked, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus *said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven."

Our prayers should exalt God's Name, God's Kingdom, and God's Will, at the same time, they are to express thanksgiving toward God for His unconditional love, forgiveness, and eternal life; but also for His daily provisions, protection, guidance, comfort and care...

God six good, all the time; all the time, God is good!

Pastor Mike

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