

A  
STUDY OF THE  
ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS  
OF  
PRAYER

FROM THE MODEL PRAYER  
TAUGHT BY THE  
LORD JESUS CHRIST

THESE STUDIES DELIVERED ON  
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS  
AT  
Freedom Baptist Fellowship

## PREFACE

*It is the hope of the bible teacher that these basic studies in the essential elements of prayer will be a blessing to the reader. These written notes go along with the taped study and are meant to be a compliment one to the other. No effort has been made to be overly technical or lofty in our words. There is the old adage learned long ago from one of God's teachers of a previous generation, to keep the cookies on the bottom shelf so that everyone can reach them. That then is our goal, may these then touch your heart with the importance of prayer.*

# *CHRIST'S TEACHINGS ON THE ESSENTIALS OF PRAYER MATTHEW 6:5-15*

Introduction: Jesus desires to have fellowship and communication with his people. Prayer is our means of getting in touch with our Father. Here in this passage of chapter 6 we find Jesus speaking to those who are interested in praying, people who take prayer seriously. Prayer is a vital tool in the believer's life. Our Father wants and desires this type of fellowship. Isaiah 43:10 Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.

It is Paul's instruction to us to pray without ceasing. (1 Theses. 5:17) Jesus here is more interested in how we pray. He is going to provide instruction on how to pray effectively, however He will start by pointing out the wrong way to go about praying. It is possible to pray and not be heard.

## **I. THERE ARE DANGERS SURROUNDING PRAYER**

There are some negative factors that we must guard against.

1. Prayer can become hypocritical (verse 5 And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are) A person can pray with the wrong motives or wrong reasons.
2. Prayer can be habit forming (verse 5 for they love to pray standing in the synagogues) Prayer is a wonderful experience very rewarding. We can begin to love praying and still be wrong in our motives.
3. Prayer can become connected with certain places (Verse 5 standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets). We generally have a place or places that we have found to be special for us in our prayer lives. However we cannot allow any of these places to become a limiting factor in reaching to God.

4. Prayer can become empty repetition (verse 7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do) A person can take any phrase or word or form and make it meaningless. The Lord's model prayer is a very good illustration of this fact as many repeat it from memory and never consider the words said or the why.
5. Prayer can become too long (Verse 7 for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.) A believer can begin to feel that God hears him because he or she says a lot. "Much speaking" Eccl. 5:1-2 Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil. Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.
6. Prayer can become self-glorifying (Verse 8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.) A person can begin to believe that he has to convince God of his great need. Or upon God giving in because of His great mercy, he develops a false sense of spirituality that they have a special connection to get things from God.
7. Prayer can become self- deceptive (Verse 7-8) a person can begin to think he is heard, 1. because of much speaking and 2. Because he convinces God of his need.

The Wrong Motive is Praying to be seen by Men.

Praying is not a sign that a person really knows God. The fact that a person really knows God means that he does pray.

Those who pray to be seen love to pray, but they are hypocrites.

The places he loves to pray are in the church services and public places such as restaurants.

There five lessons to be learned here.

First some love to pray publicly: they love to represent the group, they are very charismatic and fluent in prayer, yet they lack a personal prayer life.

Second some pray only in public: such as at meals, in church, in public, they seldom pray in private. Third Prayer is to be offered to God both in church and public. Public prayer is to be public and not our private devotions.

Fourth some pray much, yet they are hypocrites. Some religious people pray too little.

Fifth note this mans posture “he stood praying” standing is an acceptable position (Mark 11:25 And when ye stand praying, forgive) however this individual depicts a picture of pride and arrogance. Kneeling is a picture of humility, reverence, and dependence upon God. (Luke 22:41 And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, and Eph. 3:14 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,) see also Romans 12:16; Gal. 6:3; 1John 2:16; Habakkuk 2:4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

The man who only prays in public prays so he might receive recognition.

The sin is not failing to pray- but in praying to be heard by men. Praying publicly should be done: The greatest danger is in having one’s pride stroked.

--- That one is praying a good prayer – just so eloquent with words.

--- That one’s prayer will surely be admired.

--- That one’s prayer is really demonstrating a close walk with God. Matt. 15: 7-8 Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me; 1 Cor. 8:2; Proverbs 4:2; Proverbs 16:18; Isaiah 5:21

The person who prays only in public receives his reward: public recognition. There are three things about this individual. First he has a false self image- one of good feelings about his spiritual state. Second he has cheated himself and third he gets just what he or she deserves: 1 Peter 1:24 For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away;

Psalm 49:12, 17; Hosea 4:7 As they were increased, so they sinned against me: therefore will I change their glory into shame

The right motive for prayer is seeking to be heard by God (6:6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly)

Three things about right motives

First the willingness to take time to pray “when thou prayest” there has to be a will to pray.

Second a closet is necessary – there needs to be a private place for prayer

Third a personal relationship with God: A father –child relationship is needed Psalm 91:1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty Enter your closet (a) get alone- unobserved (b) get alone – undisturbed (c) get alone – unheard by others so you can concentrate and meditate. Acts 10:9, 30; Mark 1:35; mark 6:46-47; Luke 6:12; Luke 22:41-42. The reason to pray in your closet, is because God is in secret (6:4 thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly

God “is in secret”; therefore, a person can meet God only in secret. Even in a crowd, a person must have a secret heart to heart meeting. God “is in secret” he is not interested in show but rather in substance.

Many pray on the run; few pray in secret most say they do not have the time. Most have the time they just do not take time. Many have not been taught the importance of a quiet time. Some have no discipline or consistency in their spiritual lives.

The reward of the genuine prayer warrior is open blessing in their lives. You have the strength and presence of God. Ezra 8:22 The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him. The believers prayers will also be answered

1 John 5:14-15 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

Secret means at least three things

1. Concentration: thinking deeply upon God and sharing accordingly
2. Apart from all: secluded alone out of view
3. Unseen: invisible, yet there

## II. THE THREE GREAT RULES FOR PRAYER 6:7-8

Many people think of great praying as being fluent and lengthy. Eccl. 5:2 " *Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter anything before God; for God is in Heaven, and thou upon earth; therefore let thy words be few.*" Christ lays out in these two verses 3 rules for prayer.

First do not use empty repetition 6:7a But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions

1. Memorized prayer; form prayer as in prayer books
2. Written, well worded prayers: expressive, descriptive, beautiful prayers do not carry weight with God.
3. Ritual prayer: saying the same prayer at the same time on the same occasion over and over again.
4. Formal worship: praying by habit with little meaning
5. Thoughtless prayer: speaking while our minds are wandering
6. Religious words and phrases: using certain words over and over again
7. Habitual references to God: How little thought is given to approaching Him? Isaiah 9:6 and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace repetition is not wrong, Christ says here that "vain" repetition is what is wrong. 2 Tim. 3:5 & Matt. 15:7-8 "vain" means to babble much, to say idle things.

The Second Rule: This one is probably an eye opener – "do not speak much". Length does not equal devotion. God

does not hear a prayer because it's long, but rather because of a genuine heart. Long prayers are not forbidden. Christ prayed all night in Luke 6:12 And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. The early disciples prayed and fasted for 10 days. What are some ways to prevent the sins of long prayers? Solomon gives us some good advice in Eccl. 5:2 as follows

1. "Be not rash with thy mouth" do not let your mouth rattle on and on without thought.
2. Do not be "hasty to utter anything before God": sit still, be quiet without saying a word for awhile.
3. Think about who God is: Psalm 46:10 Be still, and know that I am God
4. Let "thy words be few" speak – but make your words deliberate. Request just as any obedient son would his father. Be straight and to the point.

When should the believers spend a long time in prayer?

1. Sometimes a special need to praise and adore God (acts 16:25)
2. Sometimes a special need arises, maybe yours or a friends
3. Sometimes an unusual experience or event in a believers life (Matt. 4:1-11)
4. Sometimes a great trial or temptation
5. Sometimes a problem needs worked through or a major decision needs to be made. (acts 13:1-3)
  - a. prayer is a matter of the heart
  - b. prayer is a personal relationship
3. The Third Rule is this "trust God"
  1. God knows the believers need even before the believer asks. Why pray then? Prayer demonstrates our need for God and our dependence on Him. Prayer is the means not only to having our needs met, but to share in fellowship and to enrich our lives with God.
    - a. God knows our every need, we need not worry over whether He knows or will meet them
    - b. God is the believer Father. The believer can, therefore rest in God and His promises.



2. God desires to hear from us. 2 Chron. 16:9;  
Isaiah 65:24; God desires to work for us.  
Romans 8:23-39
3. God has ordained prayer as the medium  
through which He blesses and moves among us.  
Psalm 31:19; 32:10; 34:22; Psalm 125:1;  
Proverbs 3:5-6; Pro. 29:25; Jer. 17:7-8

### III. *THE MODEL PRAYER 6:9-13*

Intro: What is the Lord's prayer? Notice the words "after this manner –pray ye." See also Luke 11:1-2 the prayer was given to show the disciples how to pray not the words they should pray.

The believer is to develop the points as he prays. When we pray through this prayer we find he has covered the scope of what God wants him or her to pray. How desperately the preachers and teachers of the world need to pray as Christ taught!

1. There is surrender and acknowledgement (9)
  2. There is request and plea (10-13)
  3. There is praise and commitment (13)
- A. What is Prayer
1. Prayer is sharing and fellowshiping with God.  
(Matt. 6:9)
  2. Prayer is surrendering to God. (Matt. 6:9)
  3. Prayer is requesting and pleading. (Matt. 6:10)  
It is demonstrating one's need and trust in God.
  4. Prayer is acknowledging and praising God – it is saying that you accept His sovereignty and majesty now and forever.
1. The Believers prayer is to be a surrender
    - a. There is the surrender of the believer to God and to God's family.

1. When a person genuinely says, “ Father” he is surrendering to God. He is denying humanism, self- sufficiency, and all other gods.
    - n Surrendering himself to the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ.
    - n Acknowledging the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ to be his own Father.
  - b. When a person prays “our Father” a person is surrendering his independence and accepting god’s family as his own.
  2. There is the surrender of the believer to heaven. The spiritual world. We set our minds upon the Kingdom of God. We become more committed to seeking the things of the spiritual world.
  3. There is the surrender of the believer to the holy name of God. We become swallowed up in the knowledge of the “hallowedness” the sovereignty of God’s being. When a person reaches this point of surrender, then and only then are they ready to present there needs to God.
- 5 major points on Our Father
- a. “Our Father” is the first thing to pray.
 

Example

--- Father, thank you for yourself that you are our Father
  - b. “Our Father” says 3 things about prayer
    1. We are not to pray alone – not always the word “our” shows this.
    2. We are to pray to God and Him alone no other

3. We are to address God as “Father” we are His children Matt. 7:11; 1 Peter 1:17
  - c. “Our Father” God has no favorites: Acts 10:34 says “God is no respecter of person’s
    1. God is our Father by creation Gen. 1:1; Malachi 2:10; Isaiah 64:8; Acts 27:28
    2. God is “our Father” by re-creation 2Cor. 5:17 and adoption. He is Father to all that believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 8:15; Gal. 4:4-6
  - d. There is one particular time when we must approach him as Father when returning to God and repenting of sin.
  - e. “Our Father” settles all the relationships in the world.
    1. We can no matter how far down we are come to our Father
    2. It settles our relationship with others.
- B. Which art in Heaven**
1. Heaven – There are three heavens mentioned in the Bible.
    - a. The atmosphere surrounding the earth Matt. 6:26 “the birds of the heaven.
    - b. The outer space of heavenly bodies Matt. 24:29 “and the stars shall fall from heaven”
    - c. The place above and beyond the physical dimensions where God’s presence is fully manifested. 2Peter 3:8-14
    - d. A comparison of the three would be something like this.
      - 1<sup>st</sup> heaven –air – outer court of the tabernacle
      - 2<sup>nd</sup> heaven – space- the holy place of the tabernacle

3<sup>rd</sup> heaven – throne of God- the holy of holies  
with the mercy seat .

## 2. This is the Second Point to be Prayed

“Our Father- in heaven, after this manner”

n “ Father thank you for heaven: the hope, the  
anticipation of heaven”

n Thank you that you are in heaven

## 3. There are several lessons to be learned.

a. The believer must direct his prayers to heaven

Psalm 103: 19 “The Lord hath prepared His  
throne in the Heavens”. It is here that Christ  
appears as our advocate Acts 7:55-56; 1 Tim.  
2:5; Heb. 8:1, 6; 9:15.

b. How should we approach God? These words tell  
us “our Father in Heaven”/

1.”Father,” says to us approach with boldness.  
Hebrews 4:16 “find grace to help in time of need”

2.“In Heaven” we should approach respectfully,  
in fear and awe Psalm 111:9 “”holy and reverent  
is His name”

3. The heavens reveal the power and glory of  
God. Psalm 19:1 “the heavens declare the glory  
of God; and the firmament sheweth his  
handiwork” also Psalm 150:1 These words put  
together the love of God and the power of God.

## 4. Our true citizenship is in heaven Philippians

3:20 The longing of the mature believers heart  
is to be in heaven. Luke 10:20; John 14:2;  
2Cor. 5:1; col. 1:5; Heb. 11:10.

## 5. God sees all from Heaven Psalm 33;13-19

---- He sees all the sons of men

---- He looks upon all the inhabitants of the earth

---- He considers all their works

----- There is one in particular He sees- the person who fears Him and hopes in His mercy

- A. HALLOWED BE: To be counted or treated holy. This part of prayer is to inform us that His name is to be set apart from all other names 1Peter 1:15-16 “Let thy name be made holy” the name of God stands for all that God is. III. Wherever Abraham went he built an altar and lived, so that his neighbors gave glory to God.
1. God’s name is holy, righteous, and pure it is above, before and over all names. Our prayer is then for God’s name to be adored by all men. Matt. 5:33-37
  2. The first thing prayer should do is praise and glorify God. First three phrases make this abundantly clear. James 1:17 “every good gift and every perfect gift is from above”
  3. The first purpose of man is to glorify God by his life. 1Peter 1:15-16 “be ye holy for I am holy”. Life includes speech; therefore, man should be praising god’s holiness by word as well as by life. We should thank God that His name is set apart, for think of life if his name was not more than a man’s name. 1 Cor. 15:19 “ if in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable”
  4. God’s glory is the very reason Christ came to earth john 17:1-26 (verses 1,4-6,22-26) Isaiah 57:15; psalm 46:10 ‘Be still and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth”
  5. 5. Men praise and honor each other among themselves men glorify men, even make idols of them (Matt.6: 2) some are more loyal to the

names of the famous than they are to the name of God. Exodus 20:7 says that the man who curses His name is to be judged severely.

## ***2. THE BELIEVER IS TO REQUEST AND PLEA FOR SEVERAL THINGS.***

### **A. THE KINGDOM OF GOD MATT. 19:23-24**

1. "THY kingdom come": is the first request to be prayed. This is asking for God's will to be done on Earth.
2. The kingdom of God is to be our focus. There are three reasons for this.
  - a. It is the very message that Jesus Christ preached and taught and prayed Matt. 3:2; 4:17; 5:3; 10:19-20
  - b. It is that for which God longs. The day in which He will rule and reign in the hearts of all men perfectly. The day when all men will submit and serve him!
  - c. It is the very substance of the believer's life or at least should be. A believer's whole being should be centered on the rule and reign of God on Earth.
3. "Thy kingdom come" is future: it is a request for something that does not now exist. Matt. 5:20,25-34; Acts 14:22; James 2:5; Rev. 22:20
4. God's kingdom is available. His reign is desperately needed on earth right now. There is so much rebellion, wickedness, evil, enmity, bitterness, etc. We need to pray and live as if God's kingdom has already come.

### **B. The will of God. "thy will be done"**

*When we pray for God's will to be done we say at least three things to God.*

1. That we will work to please God in what we do.
2. That God can do with us as He pleases. No matter what He chooses, we put ourselves at His disposal.
3. That we in turn will not be displeased with what God does. We may not understand at the time but we know that God's will is best, and that He will work all things to our good.
  - a. There are four wills that struggle for man's obedience
    1. Man's own will Romans 12:1-2;7:15
    2. Other men's wills 1 Peter 4:2
    3. Satan's will John 8:44
    4. God's will 1 John 2:17
  - b. there are several important lessons
    1. Many call God king, but they do not honor Him as a King.
    2. We must know god's will if God's will is to be done. 2 Tim. 2:15 "Study to show thyself approved unto God" we must study and seek His wisdom and strength for our lives.
    3. We are to ask for God's will to be done on earth. Luke 1:38;Rom. 6:18
    4. The believer is praying for heavens rule to come to earth. We are making a commitment to make earth more like heaven
      - a. By yielding himself "to God as those that are alive from the dead" Ro. 6:13
      - b. By going and teaching "all nations" Matt. 28; 19-20

## C. "OUR DAILY BREAD"

BREAD: BREAD is the basic necessity of life, the symbol of all that is necessary for survival and for a full life. There is much meaning in this simple request. We live in the only country where there is plenty if not a surplus.

Each night nearly one- half of the world's population goes to bed hungry. That is nearly 3 billion people. Every 24 hours in America a 280-acre farm washed out to sea. Our grazing land is only taking care of half the cattle as at the turn of the century. The government pays farmers not to grow crops.

1. "Give us – our bread" The words *our* and *us* overcome selfishness and show concern for others. Anyone who goes to bed hungry should be of concern to the believer
2. "This day" this eliminates worry and anxiety about tomorrow and the distant future. It also teaches and helps us to trust God day by day. "The just shall live by faith" that is day by day.
3. "Our daily bread" every believer has a portion of daily bread which is his. He does not ask for someone else's bread but for his own. He seeks and works for his own bread. He does not think of stealing or of eating from another man's table 2Thess. 3:10.
4. "Give us---bread" the believer confesses his inadequacy and dependency upon God. He is dependent upon God even for the basics of life.
5. "Give us --- bread" we ask for the necessities not the desserts of this world.
6. "Give --- this day our daily bread" this teaches the believers to come to god daily in prayer and trust Him to meet his needs.



- a. god cares for man and his welfare
  1. He cares for man's physical well being Matt 6:11,25-34
  2. He cares for man's mental and emotional well being 2 Tim. 1:7; Phil. 4:8; 1 Peter 5:10
  3. He cares for man's spiritual well being 1Cor. 3:16-17; 1 Cor. 6:19-20
- b. God cares for the human body. Several things show this.
  1. He said to ask for the necessities of life, daily Matt. 6:11
  2. He sent His only son into the world in a human body
  3. He raised up Christ in his body, a resurrected body
  4. He promises to give a new resurrected body to the believer. The believer will dwell in 'the resurrected body' forever.
  5. He has chosen the believer's body to be the temple of the Holy Spirit 1 Cor. 6:19-20

This request is for both the rich and the poor

1. The rich man feels self-sufficient as though what he possesses came from his own hands. Therefore, he thinks, "who is the Lord?"
2. The poor man has nothing and is often forced to steal. Thus he raises his fist in anger and curses God for his state of life Proverbs 30:8-9

The believer is to trust God for the necessities of life and praise God for what he receives. He has learned "in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. Phil 4:11-13

## D. SPIRITUAL FORGIVENESS "DEBTS" 6:12

**DEBTS:** means dues, duties, that which is owed. In relation to sin. It means a failure to pay one's debt, a failure to keep one's responsibilities.

God has given to everyone responsibilities. Every man has failed to do what he should. No one is without sin; no one has perfectly kept his duty. Everyone has to pray this portion. Jesus needed not to pray this but we do need to ask "forgive us our debts"

This phrase is asking God to do three things for us.

1. To forgive the debt of sin we failed therefore we need God to forgive us what we owe Him.
2. To forgive the debt of punishment anyone who fails to pay his debts is guilty and is deserving of punishment. We need to pray "Father forgive my debts"
3. To forgive his debts just as he has forgiven his debtors

If one forgives, god then forgives. You are not to hold anything in your heart! Matt. 6:14-15

a. This is the fourth request and we should "pray" after "Father forgive me-have mercy on me.

1. Father, forgive others all others, if there is anything within my heart against anyone, help me to forgive.

b. In seeking forgiveness we have a duty both to God and man.

1. Our duty to God is ask forgiveness for our failure 1 John 1:9; Isaiah 55:7; Jer. 33;8
2. Our duty to man is to forgive when he sins against us. Mark 11:25; Luke 17:4

c. There are those who do us much evil.

In this word many say and do all manner of evil against us. Bad purposes are not always found *outside* the church or the family. It is found inside also.

- Some smite us Matt. 5:39 ;Some sue us 5:40
- Some curse us vs. 44; Some hate us vs44 – some persecute us vs. 44; - some spread rumors 5:11

- d. Four things we can do when we are sinned against
  1. We must try and understand and seek the reason why a person sins against us.
    - a. A person may be tired, aggravated, and worried
    - b. Someone may mistreat a person close to him.
    - c. A person may be of a shy nature or sense inferiority.
    - d. A person may have rumor or gossip shared with them by someone who has been hurt.
    - e. A person may have a need for attention and for emotional support.
  2. The believer must forbear Col. 3:13
  3. We must forgive Eph. 4:31-32
  4. We must forget, We are not to harbor the wrong done to us. 2 Cor. 10:5
- e. Some additional thoughts
  1. An unforgiving spirit causes pain and hurt and tragedy to yourself and others
  2. We can curse ourselves by praying, if we are angry and do not forget those who sin against us.

3. Forgiveness is conditional. We sinned against God; others have sinned against us.
4. Being able to forgive others is evidence that God has forgiven our sins.

#### E. PLEA FOR PROTECTION FROM TEMPTATION AND DELIVERANCE FROM EVIL.

God does not lead us to sin, James 1:13 says He tempts no man. From this we can see Christ saying two distinct things.

1. We are to pray for God to keep you from the pull of temptation. We should be aware of our weakness and what tempts us the most.
2. We are to pray for our deliverance from evil. Our prayer should ask God to rescue, preserve and guard us.
  - A. “Lead us not into temptation” this is the fifth request to be prayed
  - B. Once we have been forgiven our sin (v12) we need to ask our Father to keep us from sinning again.
    1. Deliverance from temptation and delivery from the ‘evil one’ are the two essentials to keep us from sinning.
  - C. This request is a necessity for every believer every day. Why?
    1. All believers are tempted and often at that, but not by strange things, but by that which is common to all 1Cor. 10:13.
    2. No believer stands above falling 1 Cor. 10:12
- D. Temptation is to be prayed about

1. because sin causes God great hurt and pain Ps. 15:4
  2. Because sin causes great trouble, guilt, and grief for both oneself and others. Luke 19:41-44
- E. The believer must have help in overcoming “the evil one”. He attacks (1) by deception 2 Cor. 11:3, 14-15; and (2) by direct assault, seeking to devour 1 Peter 5:8
- F. In dealing with “the evil one” the believer needs to remember two things.
1. 1 John 4:4 “greater is He that is in you than He that is in the world.
  2. Romans 8:31 “If God be for us, who can be against us? “
3. THE LAST PART OF PRAYER “THE KINGDOM AND THE POWER AND GLORY (13B)
- Intro. There is praise and commitment. There is in 1 Chron. 29:11 a doxology similar to this one given by David. The point to stress is that everything belongs to God.
1. He is the *SOURCE* of the Kingdom and the power
  2. He is the *POSSESSER* of the Kingdom and the power
  3. He is the *RECIPIENT* of the Kingdom and the power and the glory.
- The believer belongs to the Kingdom and power and glory
- a. The believer belongs to God’s kingdom: he has accepted us as one of His own.
  - b. The believer belongs to God’s power: He has delivered him from sin and death and continues to deliver us

c. The believer belongs to God's glory: God has done all so He can show us off through eternity. Eph. 2:7 "In the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His Kingdom toward us through Christ Jesus."

A. This is the third major point to pray

1. Father, yours is the Kingdom, the right to rule

2. Yours is the power, the only power

3. Yours is the glory O God.

B. Three significant points

1. Thine is the Kingdom, tells us 2 things

a. The right to rule and reign throughout the universe is God's

b. The right to rule and reign is God's and no one else!  
Acts 17:24-25; Deut. 4:39

2. "Thine is the Power" tells us two things also

a. God alone has the power to create and sustain the perfect government

b. God alone has the power to change men so that they can escape death and live forever

3. "Thine is the glory" says that God alone deserves all the honor and praise

4. "Amen" so is it; it is and shall be so.

#### IV. BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PRAYER

"FORGIVENESS" 6:14-15

INTRO: The word "for" connects these reasons to the Lord's prayer these two verses are an explanation of verse 12. Jesus explained this for two reasons.

1. The idea of someone having to forgive in order to be forgiven was new. It was as most things that are new. It was a shock, an eye-opener.

2. The core idea of forgiveness is what it says. God cannot forgive the unforgiving heart.
- A. Several Prerequisites to forgiveness
1. He must confess his sins 1John 1:9
  2. He must have faith in God: a belief that God will forgive. Heb. 11:6
  3. He must repent (turn from sin) and turn to God. Acts 3:19
  4. He must forgive those who have wronged him (Matt. 6:14-15) Hard feelings or anger against a person stands as proof of unforgiveness.
- B. Four attitudes toward forgiveness
1. The attitude of the agnostic “God may be, he may not be” therefore His forgiveness is immaterial.
  2. The attitude of the quilt stricken person: This person doesn’t know God, yet they are deeply conscious of guilt and the need of forgiveness.
  3. The attitude of the social religionist. This person views God as a patsy- grandfather who allows people to live like he wishes as long ass there is occasional forgiveness.
  4. The attitude of the mature believer. This person knows himself and his sin and his need of God’s forgiveness. Therefore he lives in a spirit of confession and repentance.
- C. Forgiveness of Others (14)
- The word “trespass” means to stumble, to fall, and to blunder.
1. Christ takes for granted that we know that we need forgiveness. Even the most mature among us fails to keep God’s law perfectly.

- a. We are rarely living to the fullest degree that we should.
  - b. We are always crossing over from the path we should follow.
2. The greatest thing in the entire world is to be forgiven our sins. To be accepted and restored by God. Forgiveness sets us at liberty in this life to live abundantly and in the next life to live forever.
  3. The only way to experience this forgiveness is to forgive others their trespasses against us. When we forgive others we see several practical things.
    1. We are not judgmental
    2. We do not become bitter.
    3. We do not plan to take revenge.
    4. We do not hold hard feelings.
    5. We do not talk about, gossip, or join in rumor.
    6. We do not rejoice in trouble and trials.
    7. We love and pray for the other.
  4. Two Facts
    - a. Bad feelings against another person is sin
    - b. Forgiving men their trespasses means all trespasses Mark 11:25; Lk. 17:4; Col. 3:13
- D. Forgiveness of Others – the Warning (15)
- Refuse to forgive and be unforgiven. The believer who prays for forgiveness and holds feelings against another person is hypocritical.
- This person asks God to do something they are unwilling to do. Bad feelings toward anyone are proof a person is not right with God.
1. Bad feelings show that a person does not know the true nature of God or man.
  2. Bad feelings show that a person walks and lives in self-righteousness. He feels better than others, and



judges himself able to talk about and look at the sins of others.

3. Bad feelings show that a person is living by the world's standards instead of God's word. Ro. 10:12 "there is none that doeth good, no not one" Ro. 3:10,23; Gal. 6:1-3. Christ is clear in His warning to forgive others Luke 6:36-37  
The warning is severe when you see the opposite statement
  - a. Three lessons
    1. The man, who holds bad feelings against others, does not know himself.
    2. Feelings against others cause inward disturbance. They eat away at one's soul.
    3. Three things are necessary for God to hear our prayers. (a) Lifting up holy hands (b) being without wrath (c) not doubting 1Tim. 2:8
  - b. The answer to peace is Christ Jesus. He is the only possible peace between two people.

#### **IV.HINDRANCES TO PRAYER**

- A. There are clear principles and reasons as to why our prayers at times do not receive the answer that we are expecting. I want to give you just 7 . You can probably think of others, however these will give you insight into what might be hindering your prayers.
  1. Wrong Relationships Between Wives and Husbands  
In the issue of hindered prayers we will start where God starts (1Peter 3:7) "that your prayers be not hindered" god deals first with wives and then with husbands.
    - a. Wives : Go to 1 Peter 3:1-5 here God speaks to wives about her duty to her husband. To get prayer

answered a wife must be in subjection. A woman may try and influence her husband by outward means ( clothes, hair, jewelery, etc) however these will not get the job done. A woman is to have, according to (vs4) the “ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price”

Sarah is given as an example of this spirit towards her husband. Rebellion to being subject is sin.

b. Husbands 1 Peter 3:6-7

Husbands too, have their prayers hindered if they do not do what the Bible says towards their wives.

1. dwell with their wives according to scripture.
2. Realize and respect them as the weaker vessel
3. “As being heirs” husbands, then , should take the rightful place as head of the home as High Priests, responsible for the home.

His life should be an example to his wife ( 1cor. 14:35) when husbands shirk their role, their prayers are hindered. Eph. 5:29

2. Blocked by Wrongs Unrighted Matt. 5:23-24

Some pray long, some give a lot of money, some toil a lot, yet God is not open to you.

Many cannot get their prayers heard because of some wrong in the past not made right. Luke 19:8 (Matt. 5:38-42) Your hot words may have cut some dear one deeply and you have never asked for forgiveness, to be heard one must make things right.

3. Unforgiveness Grieves God and Hinders Prayer Matt 6:14-15 unforgiveness hinders prayer. A grudge, a root of bitterness, or even hate will block our prayers Matt. 18:21-35

We are to forgive the same wrong at least 490 times, by then you will have forgotten and gotten past that disposition. 10,000 talents was worth 20 million in silver and 300 million in gold. This shows the magnitude of our debt. How small are all the sins we cannot in comparison to the debt we owed to God. Matt. 5:9 Stephen had it the right attitude (Acts 7:60 Mark 11:22-26.

#### 4. Covetousness Puts One Under A Curse and Hinders Prayer.

This is considered a respectable sin found even in the best families.

1. It is literally Idolatry Col. 3:5; Eph. 5:5; 1Tim. 6:10
2. It is robbing God. Mal. 3:7-9 God challenges Israel and us. Verse 10. Bringing to God what is God's will allow Him to bless and not curse. For those who say this is just for the Jew, proportionate giving is a New Testament command also. 1 Cor. 16:2; heb. 7:1-10 (Achan) The widow mark 12:41-44; Acts 4:34-37; 2 Cor. 8:1-6 Those who sing "Oh how I Love Jesus" but do not love Him a dimes worth out of a dollar will not get far in praying.
5. Self Will, Rebellion, disobedience Hinders Prayer  
Self will is another sin which keeps God from hearing your prayer. Saul and Amalikes is good example 1 Sam. 15:3, 22,23
6. Indifference toward the Bible Hinders Prayer Pro. 28:9 . A simple disinterest in reading and meditating

on the word makes prayer a dispicable thing to God.

Ps. 1:1-3 Josh 1:8

7. Unconfessed Sin Hinders Prayer Ps. 66:18

This verse is a general rule to apply to our spirits every day. He doesn't say if I sin no if I simply regard it must not love any sin ever, no alibi's or excuse's for it. We must judge sin in our lives to keep the prayer line open.

8. How to get the Hinderances Removed 1 John 1:9

Honest confession invoves the following

1. An honest realization of our failure and sin.
2. Honest confession involves a penitant heart, real repentance
3. A confession that invoves a simple faith in God's willingness to forgive.

**V. Who to pray for**