

Sunday March 04, 2007
Prayer Series (Part-4)
God's Instructions on Prayer (Message 1)

Review
Why Pray?
God Promises To Answer Prayer
Different Kinds of Prayer

Prayer was designed by God
Luke 11:1-4
Prayer is God's design. It is not a man-made system. God set up the system of prayer.

God teaches us how to pray.

In response to the request "Lord teach us to pray", the Lord Jesus gave them, what we call as "the Lord's prayer".

Matthew 6:1-15

Vs 5: We do not pray to impress people. Prayer is not a "spiritual beauty contest" – who can pray long, loud, etc. etc.

The motive of the heart is very important. If you pray to impress people – you already have the reward for your prayer – an earthly reward – people may be impressed. That is your reward. However, if the motive of your heart is pure – to seek God, to be with Him, etc. – you will receive a heavenly reward – God will do something in response to your prayer!

We have to be careful about our motives, when we go around telling people "I am praying for you" or "the Lord led me to pray for you". Question : Why are you saying that? If it is to impress that person – you will only have an earthly reward. It is better therefore to pray secretly for those whom the Lord may lay on your heart – without any fanfare. If your motive is pure and you intend to just be an encouragement – go ahead and share that you were led to pray for that person. In all other cases, just be quite and do your praying in secret!

Vs 7: Vain repetitions = to repeat the same formula many times

Vs 9: pray after this manner, in this way, or to this effect.

In what we call as "The Lord's Prayer", the Lord Jesus gives us the key elements of prayer – 10 key elements that should constitute our prayer life.

Here is what a good prayer life should be focused on and should consist of.

The Lord's Prayer was not intended to be used as a vain repetition – since Jesus just instructed us in vs 7, not to use vain repetitions.

See this as the overall direction, purpose, focus of your prayer life. A good prayer life will have these 10 key elements.

1. Our Father

- Prayer is a relationship.
- Prayer is wrapped up in the all consuming, loving, covenant relationship that we have with God
- Since I am approaching my Father, I do so with holy boldness, childlike trust and confidence. I am His child.
- I am welcome in His presence through the blood of Jesus.
- From God's perspective, the hearing and answering of the prayers of His children is an expression of His Fatherhood.

2. In Heaven

- Prayer is me (on earth) reaching Some One far greater than all, in heaven
- I am calling in on Headquarters – the place of my spiritual citizenship from where I have been sent as an ambassador of Christ into this world
- I am connecting with Some One who is more than enough. I am tapping in to heaven where there is all supply.

3. Hallowed be Your name

- Our prayer lives must include continuous reverence, thanksgiving, adoration, admiration, praise and worship of God.
- Avoid the trite "God is in my pocket" attitude. We need to have hearts full of holy adoration and reverence for our God.

4. Your Kingdom Come

- Our prayer lives must be preoccupied with seeing His Kingdom (the King's Domain, His rulership established here on earth)
- First in our lives : Let your rule be established in my life. Be King in my life. Then in the lives of people around us.
- In our prayer lives we must earnestly pursue the establishing of the Kingdom of God here on earth – in our homes, communities, places of work, in our city, our nation and in the nations of the world.
- The Lord Jesus ushered in the Kingdom of God here in earth (Mark 1:15)
- He then instructs us to pray "your Kingdom come".
- This would include the salvation of souls, the bringing of people from the dominion of darkness in to the Kingdom of Jesus Christ (Acts 26:18)
- The coming of the Kingdom as Jesus demonstrated is accompanied by the overthrowing of the powers of darkness through the power of the Spirit by miracles, healings and deliverances. Our prayer lives should consist of participation in such spiritual activity. (Matthew 12:28)
- The Kingdom comes with power (1 Corinthians 4:20), so part of our praying must include the praying for the demonstration of Kingdom power.
- The Kingdom is righteousness, peace and joy (Romans 14:17), so part of our praying must include praying to see righteousness, peace and joy to be established here on earth – in our lives and in those around us.

- The keys of the Kingdom have been given to us (Matthew 16:19), so part of our praying must include “binding and loosing” – allowing on earth what is allowed in heaven, and disallowing on earth what heaven disallows.

5. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven

- We are seeking the establishing of God’s will on earth – in our lives, in our circumstances, in our city, etc.
- We pray for the “general” and the “specific” will of God for our lives to be established on earth.
- Remember that in general, the will of God does not happen “automatically”. That is why we are instructed to pray to see His will established on earth.

6. Give us this day our daily bread

- Pray for our personal needs.
- It is perfectly alright to pray to have our needs met.

7. And forgive us our debts (sins) as we forgive our debtors (those who have sinned against us)

- I need to maintain a clean heart and a clear conscience before God.
- My relationship with God is affected by my relationships on earth!
- My prayer life must consist of times where I deal with sins and hurts. Sins – the wrong that I have done. The hurts – the wrong that I have felt.
- My prayer life must consist of an ongoing times of “bearing my heart” my inner-feelings to God. He heals, He cleanses, He restores, He purifies, He corrects, He aligns my inner man.
- I release others who have wronged me with the same grace and mercy which I expect to receive (or have received) from God
- Vs 14-15
- Forgiving a person does not mean to “to simply forget”. You may forgive a person but you may still recall what happened without any feeling of resentment, grudge or bitterness. Since this may not always be easy to do, it is good to not recall – until you are able to do so without any sense of ill-feeling.

8. Do not lead us into temptation

- “Do not lead us into temptation” can also be stated as “Lead us away from temptation”.
- Temptation Greek *`pirasmos`* = a putting to *proof* (by experiment, *experience*, solicitation, discipline or provocation); by implication *adversity*. It means *trial* of any kind, without reference to its moral quality
- James 1:13 : God never tempts us to sin, i.e. induces us to sin. It is the devil who does that.
- Matthew 4:1 the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted (Greek *`pirazō`* the root for *`pirasmos`*)
- In this element the Lord Jesus is dealing with our ability to handle temptation – a putting to proof our ability to resist sin or endure adversity.
- This therefore should be another aspect of my prayer life. My dealing with inducements to sin and my endurance through adversity.
- The Lord Jesus instructs us to pray that the Lord would so direct our paths that we will avoid the enemy’s inducements to sin. 1 Corinthians 10:11-14 This obviously implies

- that I follow His leading – walking in godly wisdom and the Spirit’s direction – to either bypass or find His “way of escape” from the temptations that are common to man.
- I believe that it is possible through prayer to circumvent the enemy’s temptations. Matthew 26:41 Luke 22:31,32
 - Examples:
 - As a young man you can pray “Lord keep me from lusting after women and their beauty”
 - As a young woman you can pray “Lord keep me from falling for any man who shows interest in me but whose heart is not really after you”
 - As a business man you can pray “Lord keep me from falling into the love of money, even as I believe you to prosper me and make me successful”
 - As a housewife you can pray “Lord keep me from becoming resentful toward my children who make so many demands on me or becoming bitter toward my husband, who I feel should be spending more time at home”
 - What if I do make mistakes or if for some reason the enemy has come against me with all he has got as in the “evil day” – what should I do. I still pray to endure and overcome! James 1:2-4,12-15 James 5:13 (afflicted = suffering, enduring hardships)

9. Deliver us from the evil one

- Prayer for victory over the devil and his works
- This is the warfare element of prayer for here I am counteracting what satan might have arrayed against me
- When you see the enemy coming against you in specific areas of your life, you need to address them in prayer and during your time with God.
- Remember that we have a part to play in overcoming the evil one. We submit to God and resist the devil (James 4:7)
- Example : Use the sword of the Spirit (the Word of God) against the enemy who is trying to bring failure or hinder financial growth.

10. For Yours is the Kingdom, the power, the glory forever

- We acknowledge that He is Supreme, He is overall. All power and all glory belongs to Him alone.
- My prayer time must include my maintaining a humble heart toward God recognizing that all things are from Him and for Him.

Next Sunday, we continue our study on “God’s Instructions on Prayer” as we examine more instructions that the Lord Jesus gave us on how to pray.



USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>