

The Patterns of Prayer - Part 1

REVIEW: The passion of prayer proceeds from our regard for prayer as a privilege as opposed to an obligation. Passion is identified by what we meditate on. Passion gives life and purpose. A “passionless” life responds with “whatever”. As those made alive in Christ, we are now to pursue.

The Pattern of Prayer — some specific things regarding prayer that we need to adhere to, learn from, and respond to.

- We all want a pattern. We want relationship to be reduced to a pattern which is something God never intended.
- But there are patterns that help us produce the real thing. A pattern is not the reality but a reflection of what the real thing is to be.
- The Pharisees were content with just the patterns.

Luke 11:1 — The disciples response was “Teach us to pray”.

- The disciples could see that something came to Christ from his prayer life
- Prayer appeared to be the engine that empowered Him. “Teach us to pray.”
- John 5:19 - “The son can only do what He sees the Father doing...”

Matthew 6:5-8 — “And when you pray...go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father who is unseen...”

- WHEN you pray — there is an expectation that prayer will be done
- Prayer is to be done as an UNSEEN reality. It is when there is nothing but our faithful giving, serving, praying, when this is unseen we make deposits in the account we have with God.
- Before we ask, the Father know. There is a difference between “vain repetition” and “persistence”. Repetition often proceeds from our not believing we are being heard. That is a relational issue.

Matthew 6:9-13 — This is the pattern for prayer

- This is the most important teaching on prayer...for it came from God Himself.
- Yet we think we've outgrown the basic structures
- Yet the Lord's prayer is simple, basic and lays the foundation for effective prayer.
- Why is it called the "Lord's Prayer".
- Being the prayer shown to us by God, then this pattern should shape, inform how all our prayer should be framed, a template that forms our prayer life.

Paternity - "Our Father" — Jesus is connecting not only Himself but He is connecting US to the Father. Too often we live in terms of ourselves as individuals.

"Our" - John 17:20-23 — God intended for us to be one with Himself as Jesus and the Father relate as one. The purpose of God, purpose of the Gospel is to bring all things together, in heaven and on earth.

- When the revelation of "our" comes to our hearts, we are enlarged.

"Father" - Romans 8:14-17 — there is something about Dads that conveys authority. Fathers protect, provide, they bless. Our sense of identity is wrapped up and derived from His Fatherhood.

Position - "in heaven" — our fellowship with the Father is done by the Holy Spirit.

- He is above; He is over and directing ourselves toward Him we are lifted beyond the limitations, demands of this world
- A God in heaven ties our hearts to eternal things.

Eternal orientation - Titus 1:1-2 — "...a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life which God who does not lie promised..."

- Being earth bound, we need to be drawn to something beyond our selves.
- Our Father who is in Heaven — is the orientation and set of mind that brings us up into the greater things of God - who He is, how He is.

Praise - “hallowed be your name” —

- The commandment directs us
- Ps 8:1
- Prov 18:10
- The NAME of God defines a position
- There is something different, distinct about the Name.
- Position like this always demands praise. To “hallow” the Name is to respond to what you’ve been drawn up to.
- We cannot be drawn out of ourselves without being broadened, enlarged.

Continued next week.

Priority - “your Kingdom”

Petition - “give us this day”

Penitence/repentance - “forgive us”

Penitence extended/patience - “forgive them”

Protection - “lead us not but deliver us”