

Effective, Intense ... Prayer !

James 5: 16

1) Mathew 6:5-15, Sermon on the Mount ... Prayer Instructions: How NOT to Pray!

Vs 5: Do Not Pray for Man's Recognition

Vs 7: Do Not Use 'Vain' Repetitions

Vs 8: Do Not Put Merit in "Much Speaking"

2) Luke 11: 1-13 (similar to Mat 6) "TEACH US TO PRAY"

After witnessing the life of Jesus, His disciples felt their greatest NEED was to know how to Pray like Jesus did. Jesus immediately responded with the Pattern of prayer... often called the Lord's Prayer. It is, in fact, a Pre-Resurrection pattern for us to Learn to pray by.

This immediate response of our Lord proves that our praying can become more effective if this pattern is Taught, Learned and Practiced. See James 5: 16-18

The Bible teaches to be in constant prayer (attitude) and spontaneous prayer is often found in scripture. However, in the life of the believer... this effective, intense prayer life is the foundation for all other prayers. This pattern of prayer is the focus of this study!

3) WHAT IS PRAYER ?

The act of prayer is the privilege of all Saints to Communicate directly with the Great God Jehovah with the unified attention of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Note: Communication dictates a two-way exchange of information, ideas and emotions. Leadership of the Spirit, Authority of the Son and Access to Father are provided for us.

4) Promised Results and Resources received through Prayer:

Strength:	Luke 18: 1
Power:	Mark 9:29
Assurance	Philippians 4:6
Requesting	" "
Thanksgiving	I Thes 5:17
Help	Hebrews 4: 16
Healing	James 5: 14

All of this and more are Biblical Promises for the child of God who walks after the Spirit and thus is directed by the Spirit to pray in the will of God. The end result is a deepening Faith, greater Trust and a practical Reliance upon God without Fear or Worry. This is, after all, Gods desire for all his children. The outworking of this must begin with serious communicating with Him.

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Part II

WHAT IS THE 'BASIS' OF OUR PRAYERS ?

??? What makes YOU think YOU can talk to GOD and that He will Answer YOU ???

1) **Our Praying is PRACTICAL:**

There are probably few (if any) who do not pray at some point in their life. Even an atheist, when faced with certain situations will likely pray. Prayer is so practical and powerful that even a sinner or backslider can pray (properly) and receive answer (forgiveness).

Some would say, "If it's God's will, then it will happen, I don't need to pray". If this were true, Elijah would not have prayed to start/stop the drought. The woman with the issue of blood would not have Come To Jesus, she would have stayed at home and waited. Jesus would not have spent 'all night in prayer' (see Luke 6:12) before choosing His disciples.

Consider that in the Old Testament and the New, we are both Instructed to Pray and Encouraged to pray ... through God's Promises and through others experiences. (Mat 21:22) *When the natural man Hungers, only food satisfies, We may hunt, Fish, Garden for this need. When he Thirst, only water will quench, So we dig a well or find a stream.*

When our inner man Hungers and Thirst – only God will satisfy – He has given instruction as to finding Him ... even promising "we shall be filled"(Mat 5:6). It begins with Prayer !

*** Prayer is an Opportunity given us By God, we are empowered By God(Spirit), We approach thru God's Son, Talk To God, Desiring God's will, for God's Glory! How can the God who invites us to pray in this manner then refuse us our requests? He Will Not !!

2) **Our praying is based on POWER:**

In Luke 20 Jesus was asked by what Authority he did the miracles. Our prayers are backed by HIS Authority. Luke 11:9 says "**I say** unto you, Ask and it shall be given". Jesus says so!! There are promises for every type of petition. Ask, Seek, Knock . Not only instructed by the Son, but John 16 says to ask IN HIS NAME and the Father will give it. At Lazerus' tomb Jesus said to the Father " I know you hear me always". Due to being a son or due to effective prayer? We can have the same PRIVILEGE because we are sons !

3) **We Can Pray due to OUR POSITION !**

We do not pray to a cosmic force of the universe nor to an unapproachable supreme being. Yes, He is the Great I Am, creator of Heaven and Earth ... but because of the blood of Christ, He is My Father. Luke 11: 2 "Say, OUR FATHER" . Our requests are welcomed by our Father who knows our needs before we pray. Our RELATIONSHIP with HIM insures His approval, attention and action when prayed effectively. This is not arrogance !! It is HE who has made us and not WE ourselves! (Psalm 100:3)

What is our position ? By accepting Christ as Lord and Savior ... I am ...

- * John 1: 12 I am a child of God (see Romans 8:16)
- * John 15: 15 I am a Friend of Christ
- * Rom 8: 14-17 I am a Son of God, Joint heir w/Christ (Gal 3:26, 4:6)
- * I Cor 3:16 I am the Temple or home of God (His Spirit)
- * 2 Cor 5: 18 I have been reconciled to God
- * Eph 1: 1 I am a Saint Eph 4:24 I am righteous and holy
- * Phil 3:20 I am a citizen of Heaven right now
- * Col 3:12 I am Chosen of God, Holy and Dearly loved
- * I Pet 2: 9,10 I am a chosen race, royal priesthood, holy nation, Gods possession

I Am Not The GREAT I AM, but by His grace I am What (He says) I am !!

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Part III

The APPROACH of the Effective Prayer

When you pray say, "Our Father, which art in Heaven" --- Luke 11:2 , Mat 6:9

- In these few words, Jesus tells us WHO to pray to and WHERE our prayers are directed.
- Jesus makes it clear our prayers are meant for the ears of God the Father. The Spirit helps us and we have authority through the Son... but the Father sits on the throne in Heaven with earth as His footstool. Even Christ prayed to the Father and spoke ONLY as the Father gave him to speak.

Three Biblical Insights to approaching GOD in Heaven:

- Exodus 25: 10-22 tell us of God's meeting place with his people... The Mercy Seat.
- The Ark of the Covenant (Mercy Seat) was kept in the most Holy place of the tabernacle and only Priest were allowed to approach and Only if Blood was applied.
- A huge Veil or curtain separated Holy places from remainder of tabernacle.
- To enter improperly or Touch the ark improperly meant Instant DEATH.

God is also presented to us in Scripture as a KING:

- He Rules over All. Heaven is His Throne, earth His footstool. See Isaiah 6:1
- Hebrews 4:16 presents His throne to us now as a 'Throne of Grace'

God is often spoken of in Scripture as the great Judge: Like an earthly judge...

- He is the Lawgiver and enforces HIS law. There is no need for a jury.
- One may plead Guilty and receive Mercy. Grace is His present attribute.
- If you need a Lawyer, Christ is there. You are Asked to Plead your case and God will hear you... have your case prepared! This is a serious time --- be prepared in heart.

Understanding WHO and WHERE our prayers are directed should bring about an Holy Awe and Respect along with Confidence for we are Invited to come and Assured of Answers.

The earliest manuscripts did not contain the words "Our" or "which art in Heaven". Jesus may simply have said --- Father notice the silence!! We should first get QUIET before God... not rush in with a want list but seek the "Spirit of prayer" to lead us into a conversation with Almighty God based on His Word which will not change.

Read II Samuel 7:18 – 29 how David went In, and Sat Down before God... notice the respect and the comfort David shows here. Prayer is Truly a Privileged Time!!

With only ONE WORD spoken, the believer should have his/her Spirit-man leading them into prayer now. With Holy Fear, Sacred Awe we approach our Father Humbly but yet confidently! Gen 18:27 we are but dust and ashes about to address a Holy God !!

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Part IV

The Content of Effective Prayer

It would be easy to give the pattern, Adoration – Confession – Petition – Intercession – Ascription and say follow this and your prayers will be effective ... but no cold, methodical pattern brings our hearts to God. The ‘Approach’ should have us in the right frame of Heart... but what do we say ? How do we begin? Is there more than just Asking??

Think of the letters W.A.T.C.H. for the beginning of prayer and then follow the Holy Spirit.

W = Worship A = Adore T = Thank

We should always approach God first with our Worship of WHO HE IS ! This is revealed to us in scripture and through His consistent revelation throughout history. Such as His
* Love * Faithfulness * Mercy * Power * Holiness * Splendor * Victorious
* Sovereign * All Sufficient * Wise * Immutable * Understanding * Nearness

First, as to Who He Is for all mankind... throughout History!! Secondly... get up close and personal ... Thank Him for what He has done for YOU. Not fancy words or ‘churchy’ expressions ... just plain language straight from the heart ... declare and establish His Glory!
Consider II Chronicles 20:2 13 King Jehoshaphat’s prayer

II Samuel 7: 18 David went in, sat down, thought, thanked, rested on promises

C = Confession

How can we approach a Holy God and not feel the need to completely surrender to Him. Sin separates ... confession then brings us together as one with the father. Jesus said He and the Father were One and desired that we would be One with them.

Again ... from the heart in plain, simple terms ... let’s be honest before God.

If there is some ungodly act we’ve done, that’s simple to deal with... but what about the deeper issues ... things hiding within our human nature.

* Selfishness * Pride * Our Desires * Fear * Worry * Jealousy * Unforgiveness

What about sins against Another: Seen and Unseen; Spoken or Unspoken;

Nothing is Hidden from God: * Unkind Words or Deeds * Deception * Critical Spirit * Holding Grudges * Gossip * Refuse to Reconcile * Indifference, Unconcern

H = Honor

With all hindrances removed, we Honor God by giving Him His rightful place in our heart and life. We then place our Trust in Him. We pray for His Kingdom to come! That is ... His Holy Spirit, His Power to move freely in our lives and in our World. It is the welcoming of His Rule and Reign into Our World where He has given us authority.

We, like Job 22:3 should want not just to pray ... put to talk to Him in His Manifest Presence. To Find Him and make our request known.

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Part V ----- Luke 11:2

“Thy Kingdom Come ...”

The Kingdom of Heaven should be defined and separated from the Kingdom of God. Although occasionally the terms are interchangeable, there is a significant difference. Mathew 13:24 says the K/Heaven is like a field containing both Good and Bad seed. The Wheat and tares grow together until separation day. Mat 13:44 likens it to a Net which gathers good and bad fish—then separation comes. It is also compared to leaven, a treasure and a pearl ... but when the Good one is found, all is forsaken for this ONE. Anywhere the gospel ‘Could’ be preached is the K/Heaven but not all will receive it.

God’s Kingdom must be WHERE GOD RULES! God does not rule earth today by force. The “Law” which governs today is Love. Jesus said ‘If you LOVE me, you will keep my commandment’ or live under the Rule of God’s Kingdom. Citizens of any Kingdom must abide by its rules, encourage others to do so, and ultimately enjoy the benefits of living so.

God’s Kingdom then is the Good Seed, the Good Fish, the Hidden Treasure, the Pearl of Great Price. It is that for which He gave His son. Living under the Law of Love. It’s growth is almost unnoticed and amazing. (Mat 13:31) It provides shelter for those who seek it. It can not be discovered by “observation” but is found “Within” man. Luke 17:20,21 People of Jesus’ day were told they would ‘see’ the Kingdom before they died (Luke 9:27) and His miracles proved its closeness (Luke 11:20). The instructions on giving and living without worry place “Seek ye first the Kingdom of God” as the Top priority of a Christian’s life. No wonder then, we are to pray for this BEFORE our own self or own needs.

To pray for the God’s Kingdom then is to pray for the work of the Church! To look OUTSIDE of ourselves and understand the scope of the work of which WE are a small part. Notice: the kingdom came right after Jesus left and during His listeners lifetime. The Kingdom is not Seen but it’s results will amaze. It is found “within’ believers. God’s Kingdom then must be identified with the Holy Spirit. We are praying for HIM to have HIS way in the circumstances around us. Also we are, by praying for His Kingdom to ‘Come’, are agreeing and seeking to Live by Kingdom Rules, Kingdom Love and practice Kingdom authority. We want what is best for the Kingdom, knowing it is best for Us and Everyone.

Luke 11:2 “ Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth”

* Question: Why would mortal man pray this about a Sovereign God ?

Genesis 1:28 God blesses man with a gift. Once God speaks, His Word is unchangeable. What did God Give ?? Dominion or Authority or rulership over THINGS in the Earth !! This was the choice of a Sovereign God. He still ‘Owns’ the Earth and was within His rights when He decided to destroy it ... and will be again. But when something is to be done “IN” the earth, it is the Sovereignty of God that has said I Will perform this through man.

To Save the human race ... Noah

To claim a people ... Abraham

To Deliver His Own people ... Moses

To describe Israel’s future ... Daniel

To Exemplify Heartfelt worship ... David

To enter mankind Himself ... Mary

To pay man’s sin debt ... Jesus (man)

To offer Salvation to Gentiles ... Peter

To Establish His church ... Disciples

To instruct the church ... Paul

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Part V continued ...

God uses willing men and when to do awesome works on Earth ... Works of God ... but done through the hand of man. This only proves that God is even greater that He can and will perform what He has spoken, even if it means using imperfect man.

Thy will be done Is a personal, total surrender to God.
It says... Yes I want, yes I need ... but I want your will accomplished even more !
This is not as difficult if we remember He has our best interest in mind anyway!!

What is His Will ?? Many individual needs may arise and we have to ask, seek and knock to discover God's will. Initially, we should surrender OUR will to His. However, most of God's will pertaining to our lives is recorded in commandments, principals and shown in many examples in God's Word. God's Word is His Written, Revealed Will for us. If we are in His kingdom, we should be living by His statutes and measuring the success of our lives by how it relates to His Kingdom ... not by society's standards.

In this portion of our prayer, WE ... as the ruling authorities of earth... ask almighty God to use His wisdom and power THROUGH us to accomplish the greater work that (possibly) only He sees or understands at this point.

It is crucial that we bring His Spirit into these matters. Solomon says "lean not to thy own understanding" but rather "acknowledge HIM".

This is very authoritative praying ... first recognizing our place in the Kingdom and our important responsibility to "invite" God in to every area of our life and into our world as a whole.

Lastly... when His will is known through His written word... we are being instructed to PRAY HIS WORD !!! His will is His word so pray His word over the matter. There is power that is unleashed by the Spoken word of God. All our eyes see came forth by the word of God as it was Spoken. Prayer is often a time of great conflict! Then enemy understands the possibilities of prayer ... do we?? When Daniel needed understanding of a vision, he prayed. The enemy (Prince of Persia) hindered his prayer. The answer reveals why. The vision was the clearest picture ever given of the Anti-Christ and lets people be aware of him. The enemy preferred that we did not know this so he hindered. (Dan 10:12,13)
What if Daniel had not persisted for 21 days ??? How persistent are you? When the word or will or promise is already known ... claim it, speak it, pray it and stick to it !!!

Now, with Humble boldness, before the throne of Grace and there by invitation. With adoration, thanksgiving and confession, we now seek the greater things of the kingdom above our own. Bringing into this world, the Spirit and power of God firmly established upon great and might promises spoken with words of life Now we are ready to make our petitions known to a loving Father who knows them already ... but says "Ask and ye shall receive"

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Part VI - Mat 6:9, Luke 11:2

Pleading Our Case Before God

We know that God knows our needs before we pray, yet He said “ASK”.
We know He is always present, yet there is a distinct difference when we are in His
“Manifest Presence” to do business with the God, King and Judge.
Safely said, there is an ART OF PRAYER... to ask for “Daily Bread” (Mat 6)

Read Job 23:3,4 --- A praying saint wants to find God desperately, Why???

To find Him speaks of all we've learned so far – His Manifest presence and our hearts rightly prepared before Him. The Tabernacle taught us Order – an order we can still use today. If we plan and prepare for our physical work carefully, we should prepare for our spiritual work even more carefully. Less than this is to say it is not important.

We find Him as Humble, yet Bold Petitioners who anchor our request to HIS Word, HIS Promise, HIS Will, HIS Plan, HIS Kingdom and we base upon our Position and Relationship with God through HIS son Jesus Christ.

“ To Order My Cause” Job was PREPARED to ORDER his cause.
We not heard for much saying or repetition, though both are good. This speaks of careful thought, attention and a specific time to converse with HIM. NOT eloquent words, lofty phrases or high volumes but sincerity. Drop ALL pretenses. Approach God Simply and Passionately. God wants to Hear your Heart --- Not your Mouth.

Pray for Prayer --- God's Holy Spirit can lead us down this path of Faith when we don't know our own way... so Pray for His leadership to discern and pray effectively.

“Give us this day our Daily Bread” In Jesus' day, payment was made daily. To not work meant No Bread. So when we can not provide, we ask for Today's Need !! Limit our view to the next step --- not the direction of the Journey. Ask God for WHAT we need, let Him decide HOW we need to get it. This is the essence of Faith and Trust working together.

Remember we are asking because He wants us to. We are asking for a GIFT of His GRACE. As a Child of the King, there are many reasons to EXPECT that He will Answer... these become our basis of Argument before the Lord.