

PRINCIPLES OF PRAYER (Part 2)

October 19, 2003

WE LEARN TO PRAY

Luke 11:1 And it came to pass, that, as he [Jesus] was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, **teach us to pray**, as John also taught his disciples.

Praying according to God's will

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: **15** And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, **we know that we have the petitions** that we desired of him.

Understand God's will

Ephesians 5:17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but **understanding what the will of the Lord is**.

God's will is found in his commandments

1 John 3:22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep **his commandments** (God's revealed will), and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

WE ARE TO PRAY WITH OUR UNDERSTANDING

1 Corinthians 14:15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will **pray with the understanding** also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

PRAY NOT IN VAIN REPETITION

Matthew 6:7 But when ye pray, **use not vain repetitions**, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

Think about what you are praying

Ecclesiastes 5:2 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**.

DON'T PRAY AS THE HYPOCRITES

Matthew 6:5 And **when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites** are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, **that they may be seen of men** [no faith]. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

JESUS CONDEMNED LONG PRAYERS FOR SHOW

Luke 20:47 Which devour widows' houses, and **for a show make long prayers**: the same shall receive **greater damnation** [at the Judgment Seat of Christ].

Be honest in prayer

Psalms 62:8 Trust in him at all times; ye people, **pour out your heart before him**: God is a refuge for us.

Pray fervently

James 5:16-18 ?? The effectual **fervent prayer** of a righteous man availeth much. **17** Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and **he prayed earnestly** that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. **18** And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

PRAY FOR SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING AND INSIGHT

Colossians 1:9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease **to pray for you**, and to desire **that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will** in all wisdom and **spiritual understanding**;

So we might walk worthy

Colossian 1: 10-11 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 **Strengthened with all might**, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

Pray for mercy in order to see

Matthew 20:30,33,34 And, behold, **two blind men** sitting by the way side, when they heard that Jesus passed by, cried out, saying, **Have mercy on us**, O Lord, thou Son of David. 33 They say unto him, Lord, **that our eyes may be opened**. 34 So Jesus had compassion on them, and touched their eyes: and immediately **their eyes received sight**, and **they followed him**.

To see the son

John 6:40 Jesus said, And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which **seeth the Son**, and **believeth on him**, may have **age lasting life** (in the kingdom age, Mk. 10:30): and **I will raise him up** (to a position of honor) in **the last day** (the 7th day the millennial day).

PRAY TO BE KEPT BLAMELESS unto the 2nd coming

1 Thessalonians 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and **I pray** God your whole spirit and soul and body be **preserved** [kept] **blameless** [not guilty] unto **the coming** of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pray for strength to stand before the son

Luke 21:34-36 And **take heed to yourselves**, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so **that day** come upon you unawares. 35 For as **a snare** shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. 36 Watch ye therefore, and **pray always**, that **ye may be accounted worthy** [?that you may have strength,? NASB] **to escape** all these things that shall come to pass [the snare of falling away in last days v.35], and **to stand before the Son** of man [approved for the kingdom].

PRAY for others to stand approved

Colossians 4:12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, **always labouring fervently for you in prayers**, that ye may stand perfect and complete (approval) in all the will of God (before the future Judgment Seat of Christ 2Cor.5:10).

PRAY THAT WE CAN BE COUNTED WORTHY OF OUR CALLING

2 Thessalonians 1:11 Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power:

the calling is to the millennial kingdom

1 Thessalonians 2:12 That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath **called you unto his kingdom and glory** (that is to ??reign with him a thousand years,? Rev.20:6).

PRAY FOR THE LOCAL CHURCH TO ABOUND MORE IN LOVE

Philippians 1:9 And this **I pray**, that your love may abound yet more and more **in knowledge** [doctrinal truth] and **in all judgment** [discernment];

pray for those that despitefully use you

Luke 6:28 Jesus said, ?Bless them that curse you, and **pray for them which despitefully use you.**?

PRAY IN THE MIDST OF DIFFICULTIES AND ADVERSITIES

Acts 16:25 And at midnight (in prison) **Paul and Silas prayed**, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

DON'T WORRY BUT INSTEAD PRAY

Philippians 4:6 Be careful for nothing [don't be worried or full of cares, distracted with cares]; but in **every thing by prayer** and supplication with thanksgiving **let your requests be made known unto God**.

Our prayers are recorded by God

Acts 10:4 And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, **Thy prayers** and thine alms are **come up for a memorial before God**.

GOD REWARDS SECRET PRAYER

Matthew 6:6 Jesus said, 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**.