

**Introduction:**

- How many of you would like to pray like Jesus? I think this is a worthy Christian ambition, to pray like Jesus. Sometimes prayer seems like such a big undertaking and often we do not know where to begin. My goal this morning is to make that undertaking smaller, and to give you some directives that will help you to begin to pray as a regular Christian discipline. And if you are an Ol' prayer warrior, I want to equip you to be able to teach others how to pray. Or maybe parents how to teach your children to pray.
- The disciples, having been around Jesus for a while now, noticed that He was always praying. Way more than the other religious leaders. And He prayed like He was actually talking to God. He had early morning prayer. Late in the night prayer. Prayer before meals. Prayer after a long day. And most amazingly—He never seemed to be tired of praying. So, all of this prompted the question in Luke 11:1 "Lord teach us to pray."
- *"Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.'"* (Luke 11:1, ESV) Mt 6:7-ff
  - Teach us to pray suggests that watching Jesus pray, hearing Jesus pray and seeing Jesus get regular answers to prayer created in them a desire to pray like Jesus.
  - Teach us to pray is also like the proverb: Give a man a fish and he eats for a day. Teach a man to fish and he can eat for a life time. Luke records this event (teach us to pray) as he was being led by the Spirit of God to provide a pathway for future generations to access what the disciples accessed on this typical day in the life of Jesus. Learning is so powerful!
  - Teach us to pray is a desire for a door to another world to be opened up to them. That is really what you are asking when you ask the Father to teach you to pray. You are looking for a doorway to open so that you can access another world. His world.
- For those of you who find prayer to be something that is hard, can I show you something? I want to demonstrate how easy prayer is. One verse you must have before I do this is Heb 11:6 *"And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him."* (Hebrews 11:6, ESV)

**I. Prayer Is An Invitation**

- A. Prayer is an invitation to encounter God. It is never a work unless you let it become that. Sometimes we do not pray because we "do not have time." Prayer is not God trying to keep us spiritually busy. To think that way put us way below Gods design for prayer.
- B. Prayer is an invitation to partner with God. In His presence I feel his heart. When you encounter God and you partner with God, you position yourself to pray powerful prayers that change things. To often our prayers are just token prayers to say that we have done it.
- C. The power of praying is realizing that God is saying, "Come up here..." (Rev 4:1)

1. It is time of engagement of our heart with the heart of God. We have opportunity to see from God's perspective.
2. It is realizing Eph 1:3 as a reality that is personal to you. *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,"* (Ephesians 1:3, ESV)
3. I have a connection with that world! And when I pray, I am accessing or attempting to access my spiritual bank account. As Bill Johnson said, "It is all in my account, but it is not all in my possession." We have to learn to make with-drawls through prayer. I don't want to boast of having everything and nothing to show for it.
4. Prayer is contending with everything that is trying to thwart, stop, or hinder the move of God in the earth. We purpose in prayer to bring heaven to earth.

## II. Prayer is Both And

- A. In Matthew 6 and 7, sermon on the mount, Jesus seems to lead us to a confusing place of prayer.
  1. He says in 6:7 do not pray vain repetitious prayers.
  2. Yet in 7:7 we read: *"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."* (Matthew 7:7, ESV) It literally say, "Ask continually, and keep on seeking and knocking."
  3. What is He saying???
    - a) In Mt 6:6-ff, I don't have to repeat my prayer over and over because my Father already knows what I have need of. He is good! The key concept is 'He knows my needs before I ask.' He is a good Father and he doesn't have to be persuaded to take care of His children. I don't have to continue to ask.
    - b) In Mt 7:7 He instructs us to continue asking. What accounts for the difference?
      - (1) Mt 6:7 is about needs and Mt 7:7 is about dreams. Bill Johnson.
      - (2) Repeated prayer changes me over time if I do not pray in vain. I can repeat a prayer often with my heart engaged. It is vain and repetitious if I loose focus on who I am talking to, or I am thinking about other things while mindlessly praying. (not engaged with Father).
- B. Repeated prayer changes me in such a way that I can steward what He puts in me (the dreams) or releases to me. (The Dreams) IE. The account is open and I am withdrawing. Now how will I steward what I have accessed? The more I engage with God the more He transforms me to release to others what I have been given.
- C. Sometimes the longer it takes to get the answer is based on the size of the dream. Or on the size of the change required in us.
- D. When it comes to needs don't use repetition, You good father knows how to care for

you. When it comes to dreams, ask, seek, and knock...continually until the prayer is answered.

### III. How Jesus Taught Us To Pray

- A. The Lord's prayer is really not the Lord's prayer. He had no sin so he is not going to pray father forgive me. The 'Lords prayer', is really a model prayer that Jesus is giving while teaching us to pray. It is really an outline of how to pray.
  1. He gives us an Apostolic mandate; to get the blueprint of heaven and implement it in the earth until this world reflects the nature that world there. Dream praying! On earth as it is in heaven.
  2. Larry Lea, years ago taught a series entitled, Could you not pray one hour. By giving 10 minutes to each point of the outline you can pray one hour so easily.
- B. How Jesus taught us to pray.
  1. '*Our Father*' - a big shift in your prayer life will be when you can start with Our Father and actually mean it. 'Our' corporate mindset.
    - a) So much of western prayer is about me, my dreams, my problems etc, etc. IE It is like 'only child syndrome'. Only child syndrome is when a child grows up in a home where everything revolves around them. They tend to believe that the whole world is about them and them alone.
    - b) So the prayer is 'Our Father' not my Father. The body of Christ needs this understanding because what God desires to do among us will require that we approach Him together. In other words a corporate response is required to the move of God desired. You are not alone in praying and prayer is not just for you.
    - c) '*In heaven*' – Where He is at is where I am seated. I have been raised up with Christ and made to sit together with him. Eph 2:6. So I am in the heavenly places with Him and in His presence. And I want what is there to be here on earth. This is our mandate. When we approach prayer from this view point we start to see how our lives individually affect one another and how independent we are upon each other. Ie Cain to Able, Achan to Joshua. 36 warriors died.
    - d) '*hallowed by your name.*' When we hallow the name of the Lord it strike fear in the heart of our enemy. There are 8 covenant names of God. If you spend 1 minutes at each one you almost have 10 minutes there.
  2. "*Your Kingdom come, your will be done.*" The verb tense used communicates: kingdom of God come! Will of God be done! So any problem we see on earth we can pray: Kingdom of God come! On earth as it is in heaven!
    - a) When we see answers to prayer it encourages us to pray even more.
    - b) Answered prayer strengthens us to pray more. And not just pray but to provide labor towards the answer so we are partnering with Him.

- c) So I can pray 10 minutes real easily. Ie for my wife, each of my sons and their wives, grand kids, my church, space coast industry etc.
3. *"Give us this day our daily bread."* My obedience to pray really matters.
- a) "Both the Greek and Hebrew Matthew can be translated "Give us this day our bread for tomorrow" (or "our continual bread"). [The Passion Translation](#) (B. Simmons, trans.). (2017). BroadStreet Publishing.
- b) How many of you get answered prayer at 11:59? That may not be by God's design—but it is the time we pray best. Therefore we have created a theology that comes in at the last moment. Bill Johnson.
- c) Give me today tomorrows bread! Give us! The abundance is for the others.
4. *'Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.'* Again the passion translation could easily read, *"Forgive us our failures in our duty to you just as we forgive others in their failure to us."*
- a) The need to confess sin keeps us sensitive to the Spirit of God. Don't let the sun go down on your anger. This is a life style of love and forgiveness.
- b) Set your will to forgive those who sin against you. You will be amazed at how this empowers you to love and forgive.
5. *"Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil."*
- a) Put on the armor of God, truth, righteousness, peace, faith, word of God, helmet of salvation.
- b) Live in the realization that we can fall. *"Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted."* (Galatians 6:1, ESV)
- c) Assume the posture of humility before the Lord.
- d) *"God as you lead me today take my stupidity into your consideration"*. Bill Johnson.
- e) Again, pray for your family, yourself, your pastor, your boss, etc. Your cry is that the devil does not get a foothold in your life or the lives of other.
6. *"For yours is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever."*
- a) You close praising Him for who He is.
- b) You ascribe all glory to Him.
- c) You declare there is no Kingdom like His kingdom.
- d) All Kingdom issues are 'family' issues. The family of God.

### Conclusion:

- We can learn to pray like Jesus by following His model prayer.
- We can learn to pray by simply applying what I have given you today.
  - Ask once for needs - He is a good father.
  - Keep knocking for dreams – it is about transformation in us.
- Shape the course of history with prayer.