

PRAYER SPECIFICS

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Main idea: basics of prayer

INTRODUCTION

How many of you prayed this morning?

Do you pray every day?

And during the day?

Are you satisfied with your prayer life?

What if we couldn't pray – what would be missing?

(let them answer)

TRANSITION

Prayer important – talk about it now this morning

I. THE COMMAND TO PRAY

Ephesians 6:18; 1 Timothy 2:1-4

Ephesians 6:18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

1 Timothy 2:1-4 I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone— 2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. 3 This is good, and pleases God our Savior, 4 who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

Someone read this in your language?

I URGE: Gk parakaleo – encouragement and order
encouraged and ordered to pray
like soldier encouraged and ordered to fight
prayer really is a battle!
Prayer is the battle, not preliminary to the battle

FIRST OF ALL: before anything else Timothy must pray – top priority
Before ministering to people, pray for them!!!

REQUESTS: Gk deeseis, prayers focusing on special needs
Pray for special needs in lives of people
Plead and beg for them
Intense and deep brokenness before God in behalf of others
“you have not because you ask not” James 4:2

PRAYERS: gk proseuchas – special times of prayer set aside for devotion and worship
Daily time for prayer and worship to God a must!
Attitude continue all day – pray without ceasing I Thes 5:17
LISTENING TO GOD important part of this

INTERCESSIONS: Gk enteuxeis bold praying
Standing before God in behalf of another as Christ stands before God in our behalf
Stand in the gap between them and God

Pray for more laborers Luke 10:2

THANKSGIVING: Gk eucharistias (eucharist) thank God for hearing and answering

II. THE CONTENT OF PRAY

CONFESS SINS

NEEDS OF OTHERS

Keep lists, write things down
I give lists on back of bulletin

OWN NEEDS

PROTECTION, hedge, like Job
FRUIT OF SPIRIT – Gal 5
ARMOR OF GOD – Eph 6 (piece #7 is prayer)

WORSHIP

Need both:

WORSHIP - Who and What God IS

THANKSGIVING – What God DOES

Worship gets our eyes off ourselves and onto God

Best antidote for worry, fear, discouragement

Big God = little problems

Little God = big problems

Worship reminds us what a big God we have

Focus today is on worship as ENTERTAINMENT

On what WE get out of it

Does it make US feel good?

Focus must be on GOD, not on us

We are too aware of our feeling good

Not if God is feeling good

When awake during night, early in morning – praise worship!

If God waking you up, that's what He wants

If the enemy waking you up, praising God will soon stop his doing that!

PRAYER: PUBLIC in church

FOR OTHERS
PRIVATE personal devotions

Matthew 7:7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

James 5:16-18 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. 17 Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. 18 Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

Pray daily for the world, for all people
For needs of sheep, by name regularly

TRANSITION

COMMAND – just seen

HOW TO PRAY – next

III. THE EXAMPLE OF A PRAYER

Colossians 1:9-14

9 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. 10 And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, 11 being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. 13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Someone read this in your language?

POWER OF THE PRAYER

Know all of this is God's will to pray
Appropriate to pray for anyone and everyone
Meets every need, no matter what it is – applies to everyone
Encouraging prayer – for one praying it and one prayed for
God-centered (our prayers are us-centered)
Can pray this with confidence, assurance and authority

9 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will

Understand clearly the will of God for their life

Can't obey God if don't know His will
First priority is to know God's will for things

through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.

In detail, how applies, what means, future goals, etc

10 And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way

bring glory to God
honor to name Christian
holy, righteous life
others watching, attract them to Jesus –want what we have
SALT: changes flavor, heals, preserves
Do people see something different in you?

bearing fruit in every good work,

being busy doesn't mean being fruitful
what difference does this make 20 or 100 years from now
anything that impacts others lives in positive way
 not just self-centered, focused on self
 focus on self instead of building into children, mate,
fruit = life has eternal consequence, not things just for this
 life but for next
God wants us to be FRUITFUL

growing in the knowledge of God,

do you have a hunger and thirst to know more about God, know HIM better?
 How much time spent in pursuing God? Deeper knowledge of God?
 How is intimacy growing? Where is god working in your personal relationship?
Phil 4 – Know God (not about God)
Knowledge = head, then into heart

11 being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience,

pray for God's power to work in their life so they have patience, steadfastness
pray for power of God to be released in their life
don't pray for circumstances to change
 pray for perseverance to go through the trial

and joyfully 12 giving thanks to the Father,

pray they would be thankful, attitude of gratitude

MOTIVATION to pray

Notice all are present tense – not future tense

who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.

Jesus' blood qualifies us, nothing else
We are sons and daughters of God

Eternal inheritance awaits us – greater than what we suffer

13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness

Jesus saved us from Satan's kingdom brought us into light

and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,

transferred into Jesus' kingdom

present tense, no chance of going to hell for believer

we didn't put our self into the kingdom so can't take ourselves out

14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins

What would man pay to have sins forgiven?

Ours gone eternally, forever

IV. HOW TO LISTEN TO GOD

1. WHAT DOES GOD'S VOICE SOUND LIKE?

a. Gentle Whisper (still, small voice)

1 Kings 19:11-13 The LORD said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by."

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind.

After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake.

12 After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.

13 When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Ten a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

Someone read this in your language?

NOT verbal voice, sensational or emotional experience

Very easy to overlook, think just our own thought, excuse or decide against it

ME: day before wedding decline to marry people

in pain, hurt – magnifies His voice so listen better, hear clearer – like Job causes us to focus and listen better, want/need to hear more

TRANSITION

What to listen for (HOW God speaks)

1. A gentle whisper (still, small voice)

Where to listen (WHERE He speaks)

2. Rich and enlightened thoughts

b. Rich & Enlightened Thoughts

John 2:22 After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

John 14:26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

Someone read this in your language?

Can God put a new idea directly and immediately into our *minds*

ME: what to go over in these conferences

WISDOM when setting up sermons & lessons,

INSIGHT when counseling

TRANSITION

What to listen for (HOW God speaks)

1. A gentle whisper (still, small voice)

Where to listen (WHERE He speaks)

2. Rich and enlightened thoughts

3. Warm, burning heart

c. Warm, Burning Heart

CONTEXT: Road to Emmaus resurrection morning

Luke 24:32 They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

Someone read this in your language?

Ps 39:1-3 I said, "I will watch my ways and keep my tongue from sin; I will put a muzzle on my mouth as long as the wicked are in my presence." 2 But when I was silent and still, not even saying anything good, my anguish increased. 3 My heart grew hot within me, and as I meditated, the fire burned; then I spoke with my tongue:

Someone read this in your language?

ME: to INDIA and back to India

TRANSITION

HOW GOD SPEAKS TO US

GENTLE WHISPER – subjective awareness

WHERE GOD SPEAKS TO US

RICH & ENLIGHTENED THOUGHTS – speaks mainly to our mind, rational thoughts

WARM, BURNING HEARTS – speaks mainly to our emotions, feelings

WHAT GOD SPEAKS TO US

Next topic

2. WHAT DOES GOD'S VOICE SAY?

a. Conviction

1. Of need of salvation
2. Of sin in life after salvation

b. Information, Guidance

Listen to God in spiritual warfare – how to proceed, counsel, pray, command

Listen to God in counseling – what to ask, challenge, comfort, advise, focus on

Listen to God in preaching – sermon prep, focus, MI, delivery, invitation, etc.

INSIGHT - God reveals new meaning in a passage or situation

LOOSE KEYS, all of a sudden find/remember

c. Encouragement, Peace

Strength, comfort, encouragement

Scripture passage in mind

MSBC: God give peace about size, finances, future, etc

Passages, songs about perseverance, faithfulness

d. Enablement in Ministry

USE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)

ME: teaching & counseling

Pastor role of leading sheep

e. Revelation of Himself = Worship

Praise, worship in response to His greatness spoken to US

Enjoy His presence, fellowship

New idea, revelation about God's person

Waves of appreciation, praise, worship sweep over me

V. THE KEY TO EFFECTIVE PRAYER

John 1:1-17

TIME: Late at night, Thursday, April 2, 33 AD (night before the crucifixion)

PLACE: Jerusalem streets, walking and talking

PARTICIPANTS: Jesus and the 11 disciples (minus Judas)

John 15:1-17

Someone read this in your language?

I. THE PRODUCER: GARDNER & VINE

A. THE TRUE VINE 1

1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.

True = genuine, real

Israel pictured as vine, God as owner/gardner

Was to produce for God, but often didn't

"The vine lives to give its lifeblood to the branch."

B. THE UNFRUITFUL BRANCHES 2-3

2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.

The whole purpose of the branch is to BEAR FRUIT

Wood no good for building, furniture, anything

Salvation not in view, but FRUITFULNESS is

Lost reward, not salvation

Pruning to bring more fruit, not to punish (Rom 8:1)

EXAMPLES OF PRUNING in your life, others???

3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.

Make sure they know they aren't losing their salvation

C. THE FRUITFUL BRANCHES 4-6

4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

6 If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

Remain, abide, continue, cling to

Analogy: branch to vine, us to Christ

WHAT IS THE PARALLEL?

WHAT LESSONS FOR US?

apart from me you can do nothing

- not 'very little' but can do NOTHING

Same SAP shared between vine & branch (Jesus & us)

Sap = HOLY SPIRIT

II. THE PROCESS: ABIDE & OBEY

(THE CONDITIONS)

A. ABIDE 7a, 9b

7a If you remain in me

9b Now remain in my love.

B. OBEY 7b, 10a

*7b and my words remain in you
10a If you obey my commands*

III. THE PRODUCT: FRUIT OF LOVE

A. WHAT FRUIT OF LOVE IS (RESULTS)

Fruit 8b, 16a

8b bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

16a I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit

- “FRUIT” – product of a living entity
- fruit of the vine – grapes
- fruit of the womb – infant
- fruit of the Christian – traits like Jesus
 - not just 9 or 11 listed above
 - anything we produce like Jesus

Gal 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

LOVE for those who do not love in return

JOY in the midst of painful circumstances

PEACE when something counting on doesn't come thru

PATIENCE when things aren't going fast enough for you

KINDNESS toward those who treat you unkindly

GOODNESS toward those who have been intentionally insensitive to you

FAITHFULNESS when friends have proved unfaithful

GENTLENESS toward those who have handled you roughly

SELF-CONTROL in the midst of intense temptation

Love 12, 17

12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

17 This is my command: Love each other

- LOVE = INTIMACY with others
- Also with God

B. WHAT FRUIT OF LOVE DOES (BENEFITS)

1. To God: Glorifies God 8a

8a This is to my Father's glory

INTIMACY WITH GOD

2. To Others: Display Discipleship 8c

8c showing yourselves to be my disciples.

3. To Self:

Experience Jesus' Authority 7c, 16b

7c ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.

16b Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

Experience Jesus' Joy 11

11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

JOY not the same as HAPPINESS

Experience Jesus' Friendship 14-15

14-15 You are my friends if you do what I command.

15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

Experience Jesus' Love 9, 13

9 "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.

13 Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

CONCLUSION