

Evening Sermon Outline – October 10, 2021
“God’s Word and Prayer” Psalm 119:145-152

I. Prayer needs to be passionate / whole-hearted –

¹⁴⁵ **I cry out with my whole heart; Hear me, O LORD!** ¹⁴⁶ **I cry out to You; Save me, ... Psalm 119:145 A and 146 A**
¹⁴⁷ **... And cry for help; Psalm 119:147 B**

1. Here we see emotion, desperation, the word “cry” is used

THREE times in three verses –

James 5:16 A (NKJV) ¹⁶ ... **The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.**

2. See here the involvement of the entire person - my whole heart

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For us in 21st century America, the heart is the seat of emotions, yet in Biblical times, and in biblical thinking the heart symbolized the entirety of the inner person, yes the emotions, but also thoughts, the mind, and will all were included in the concept of the heart –

Verse 145.—“*I cried with my whole heart.*” In all your closet duties God looks first and most to your hearts: “My son, give me thine heart”: Prov. 23:26. It is not a piece, it is not a corner of the heart, that will satisfy the Maker of the heart; the heart is a treasure, a bed of spices, a royal throne wherein he delights. God looks not at the elegance of your prayers, to see how neat they are; nor yet at the geometry of your prayers, to see how long they are; nor yet at the arithmetic of your prayers, to see how many they are; nor yet at the music of your prayers, nor yet at the sweetness of your voice, nor yet at the logic of your prayers; but at the sincerity of your prayers, how hearty they are. There is no prayer acknowledged, approved, accepted, recorded, or rewarded by God, but that wherein the heart is sincerely and wholly. The true mother would not have the child divided. God loves a broken and a contrite heart, so he loathes a divided heart: Ps. 51:17; James 1:8. God neither loves halting nor halving; he will be served truly and totally. The royal law is, “Thou shalt love and serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul.” Among the heathens, when the beasts were cut up for sacrifice, the first thing the priest looked upon was the heart, and if the heart was naught, the sacrifice

was rejected. Verily, God rejects all those sacrifices wherein the heart is not. Prayer without the heart is but as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal. Prayer is only lovely and weighty, as the heart is in it, and no otherwise. It is not lifting up of the voice, nor the wringing of the hands, nor the beating of the breasts, nor an affected tone, nor studied motions, nor seraphical expressions, but the strings of the heart, that God looks at in prayer. God hears no more than the heart speaks. If the heart be dumb, God will certainly be deaf. No prayer takes with God, but that which is the travail of the heart.—*Thomas Brooks.*

II. Prayer needs to be combined with keeping God’s Word / hoping in it, even for salvation –

¹⁴⁵ ... **Hear me, O LORD! I will keep Your statutes.** ¹⁴⁶ ... **Save me, and I will keep Your testimonies.** ¹⁴⁷ **I hope in Your word.**

God hears us, that we should hear Him.—*Thomas Manton.*

Our salvation, and keeping God’s statutes and testimonies go hand in hand, they are one and the same thing!

III. Prayer should be the first thing we do in the morning –

¹⁴⁷ **I rise before the dawning of the morning, And cry for help; Psalm 119:147 A**

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Reginald Heber

Our song to praise Him, to hallow His Name, to glorify Him!
Our prayers: for His will to be done, for His kingdom to come, for our daily bread ...

IV. Prayer and meditating on God’s Word should be what we continue to do through the night –

¹⁴⁸ **My eyes are awake through the night watches, That I may meditate on Your word. Psalm 119:148 (NKJV)**

1. *When you cannot sleep meditate on God's Word*
2. *Meditation sometimes means reading*
3. *Mediation often leads to and includes – PRAYER*
4. *We are to pray without ceasing –*

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ *pray without ceasing,*

V. *Expect answer to prayer because of God's lovingkindness, not the quality of our prayers –*

¹⁴⁹ **Hear my voice according to Your lovingkindness; Psalm 119:149 A NKJV**

1. *Though fervency is important; it is not the fervency of prayer but the great grace of God that gets us our answers –*
2. *We trust His promises, we seek His grace, we deserve nothing or worse we deserve death and Hell*
3. *Our fervency is because we know our NEED, not because we consider ourselves MASTERS of PRAYER –*

VI. *Expect answer to prayer because of God's justice / righteousness –*

¹⁴⁹ **...O LORD, revive me according to Your justice. Psalm 119:149 B**

1. *God's justice does not work in our favor except if we are in Christ. Outside of Christ, God's justice must punish sin!*
2. *Yet, in Christ, because Christ has died for our sins, we are justified, meaning God sees me, just – as – if – I'd – never sinned! He is faithful and "just" to forgive our sins, because of Christ's work on the cross –*

1 John 1:9 (NKJV)

⁹ **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

3. *Revival according to justice also looks forward to Christ's resurrection –*

Ephesians 2:4–10 (NKJV) ⁴ **But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,** ⁵ **even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),** ⁶ **and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,** ⁷ **that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.** ⁸ **For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,** ⁹ **not of works, lest anyone should boast.** ¹⁰ **For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.**

VII. *Expect prayer to provide real world answers to real world problems, because God is as close or closer than our enemies and His Word / Laws are true, even forever -*

¹⁵⁰ **They draw near who follow after wickedness; They are far from Your law.** ¹⁵¹ **You are near, O LORD, And all Your commandments are truth.** ¹⁵² **Concerning Your testimonies, I have known of old that You have founded them forever.**

1. *The Psalmist had enemies, wicked ones, they came threatening close to him, but they were far from keeping God's laws!*

When people cheat, when they disobey God's laws, it may SEEM they have an advantage over the righteous, they are willing to do things we should NOT!

Policemen have "rules" criminals do not! Christians have rules ... atheists think they do NOT!

2. *Yet, God is near too! He sees and knows and His forever commandments still APPLY:*
 - A. *They are truth - all Your commandments are truth. Psalm 119:151*
 - B. *They apply forever – Psalm 119:152*

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