

# Developing A Life of Prayer

EDGEMONT BIBLE CHURCH

10/20/2021

## “Enjoying the Presence of God”

*Jesus' Example - Jo 17:6-19* "I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. "Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. "For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. "I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. "And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. "Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, **keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are.** "While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. "But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, **that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.** "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. "I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but **that You should keep them from the evil one.** "They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. "**Sanctify them by Your truth.** Your word is truth. "As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. "And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

### A. What is said and not said

1. No grocery list of requests, complaints, or demands; Doesn't state a prayer request until verse 11
2. All that proceeds the request is factual information.
  - a. did God need this info? No.
  - b. Was He just saying it for the disciples' sake, Maybe, but.....

### B. Just Having a Talk with God

1. Like Marriage, intimacy is
  - a. sharing more than just a physical relationship
  - b. sharing thoughts, dreams, goals, sad times, and happy times
  - c. being connected
2. If Jesus is talking facts with the Father for the disciples' sake...
  - a. What is the lesson for them and us?
  - b. Does God want more than just requests, complaints or demands?
  - c. What is the chief end of man?

### C. Prayer in this New Age

1. Faith Instead of Religion

- a. *Discipleship as a matter of passing on traditions*
    - i. *Baptism*
    - ii. *Sunday School/ Bible Studies*
    - iii. *AWANA/ youth group*
    - iv. *because that is what you are supposed to do*
  - b. *Discipleship as one responds in faith to God's revealed truth - Heb 11:6*
    - i. *Baptism*
    - ii. *Sunday School/ Bible Studies*
    - iii. *AWANA/ youth group*
    - iv. *A seen need*
  - c. *Jesus' teaching method*
    - i. *Came for them to see what God is like*
    - ii. *Did things for them to see, healings, touching lepers and the unclean, associating with tax collectors and sinners*
    - iii. *Taught in relatable stories so that they could understand*
    - iv. *Sometimes used the Law as a springboard to communicate a new and deeper understanding of God's purpose*
    - v. *Asked questions to get responses*
    - vi. *Purposely said things that challenged the norm –Jo 6:67-69*
  - d. *Praying People*
    - i. *Stats from Omni Magazine*
      - 1. *People from all walks of life pray*
      - 2. *14% w/ no religion pray daily*
      - 3. *As do 60% of those with alternative views*
      - 4. *38% of those that deny life after death pray daily*
      - 5. *As well as 41% of those with doubts about the same*
    - ii. *To whom do they pray? "to whom it may concern"*
    - iii. *What about us? Is God just the vending machine in the sky or do we see Him as more than that?*
2. *Relationship Instead of Requests*
- a. *Prayer is more than petition*
  - b. *God is looking for dependance upon Him for everything – 1 Jo 2:6*
  - c. *Prayer is more than requests,*
    - i. *it is Communication,*
    - ii. *the outpouring of the heart*
      - 1. *What one understands*
      - 2. *What one doesn't understand*
      - 3. *Remembering truth that God has enlightened you with and talking about application*
      - 4. *How one feels, knowing how one should feel*
      - 5. *Being open to God adjusting any of the above through conviction, reminders of truth, etc*
      - 6. *Declaring understanding of and adjusting any of the above in submission*

d. Consider the beginning of the Lord's Prayer in Lk 11:2 "Our **Father** in heaven"

3. Family

a. Jesus' prayer was all inclusive

i. Except for Peter b/c he just doesn't get it sometimes or Thomas b/c he's a doubter

ii. He uses "them," "the men," "these,"

b. Not saying we can't pray for individuals,

i. Paul asks for prayer 8 times

1. Ro 15:30 Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me,

2. Ro 15:30 ¶ Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me,

3. Eph 6:19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,

4. Php 1:19 For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

5. Col 4:3 meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains,

6. 1Th 5:25 Brethren, pray for us.

7. 2Th 3:1-2 Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you, and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith.

8. Phm 1:22 But, meanwhile, also prepare a guest room for me, for I trust that through your prayers I shall be granted to you.

ii. Praying for others, especially Christians, should occupy our time - Gal 6:10 ...let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

c. God's plan is the Church as a whole

i. Eph 6:18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication **for all the saints**—

ii. 1Co 1:4 I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus,

iii. Ro 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers,

iv. Eph 1:16 do not cease to give thanks for **you**, making mention of **you** in my prayers:- you in the sense of the whole church – see vs 1

- v. *Php 1:3-4 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy,*
- vi. *Col 1:3 We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,*
- vii. *1Th 1:2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers,*
- viii. *2Th 1:3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other*