

BIBLICAL PRAYER (72)

Theological Reality #3 - There is prayer communication between God the Father and God the Son.

As we have seen in this study, God the Son has a special ministry of intercession, which He carries out for the believer and there are several passages that speak of this:

- 1) **John 17:9-19** - Jesus prayed a remarkable prayer for His disciples.
- 2) **John 17:20-24** - Jesus prayed a remarkable prayer for all believers.
- 3) **Romans 8:34** - Jesus still intercedes for all believers.

One question we certainly would ask is what exactly is it that Jesus Christ prays? Based on John's writings, we would suggest that there are at least seven intercessory items about which Jesus would pray:

(Intercession #1) - Jesus Christ prays that the Father will keep us. **John 17:11a**

This prayer guarantees our eternal security regardless of our fleshly sinful humanity.

(Intercession #2) - Jesus Christ prays that the Father will unify us. **John 17:11b, 21, 23**

Loving unity within the family of God, especially within the church, makes a powerful statement for God. Unity is critical to evangelism. When an unsaved person comes into the church and sees that the people are united and committed to the Word of God and they stand together, it is a powerful witnessing tool.

(Intercession #3) - Jesus Christ prays that the Father will protect us. **John 17:15**

The specific prayer is that we will be kept "out of the evil one." Satan may attack a believer, but he cannot ever indwell or lay claim to the believer because of this very prayer.

(Intercession #4) - Jesus Christ prays that the Father will sanctify us. **John 17:17**

Notice carefully Jesus Christ prayed that God would sanctify His people through His Word. God's people will not be sanctified without a careful understanding of the written Word of God. Jesus prayed that His people would be so dedicated to the Word of God that the Father would set them apart more and more.

(Intercession #5) - Jesus Christ prays that the Father will use us. **John 17:21**

Christ prays that we will be so united and linked to God that God would use us to make a statement to the lost world. As we are sanctified and unified we make a difference.

BIBLICAL PRAYER (73)

(Intercession #6) - Jesus Christ prays that the Father will relocate us. **John 17:24**

Jesus Christ prayed for the Rapture of the Church. He wants us in heaven so we can see Him in all of His glory. Eventually the entire family of God will be with Jesus Christ because of this prayer.

(Intercession #7) - Jesus Christ prays that the Father will forgive us. **I John 2:1**

Jesus Christ was tempted in all points like we are, but He never once sinned like we have. He faced all the same kinds of trials, temptations and pressures we face, but never once did He falter. Because of this, He completely understands all of the intricacies of a temptation and is able to plead our case before the Father as our Perfect Advocate. Because He is coequal with God in holiness, God the Father will listen to Him; and because He understands the temptation, He understands how we may fail.

These are at least seven kinds of intercessory prayers that Jesus makes on our behalf.

Theological Reality #4 - There is prayer communication between God the Father and God the Spirit.

There is no doubt that prayer is intimately linked to all three members of the Godhead. Since the Holy Spirit lives in every believer, He will be prompting the believer to offer prayer to the Father through the name of Jesus Christ the Son. The Holy Spirit specifically points the believer to truth pertaining to Jesus Christ as it relates to the Father (**John 16:13-15**). Therefore, we may know that the Holy Spirit is intimately connected to Biblical prayer. In fact, as Feinberg said, "To say that one has prayed in the name of Christ is tantamount to stating that the prayer has been to the Father in the power of the Spirit; to say that prayer has been offered in the power of the Spirit is claiming that it has been to the Father through the name of the Son" (Bib. Sac. p. 302).

In order for the believer to have a powerful prayer life, there must be a proper relationship with the Holy Spirit, because it is the Holy Spirit that links one to the other two members of the Godhead. Two specific actions must not exist if one is to have the Holy Spirit work effectively in prayer:

(Action #1) - A believer must not grieve the Holy Spirit. **Ephesians 4:30**

The idea suggested by this word "grieve" is the idea of not doing or saying something that would bring pain, grief or distress to the Holy Spirit. When we are not continually doing things that cause pain to the Holy Spirit, His prayer ministry on our behalf will be working at the highest possible level.

BIBLICAL PRAYER (74)

(Action #2) - A believer must not quench the Holy Spirit. **I Thessalonians 5:19**

The idea presented by this word is that the believer must not be doing or saying things that will put out or quench something that is on fire. When the Holy Spirit prompts us to be faithful and we quench that prompting and are unfaithful, we hurt the Spirit's ministry on our behalf, which in turn hurts our prayer life.

Dr. Feinberg writes: "When a believer repeatedly rejects God's will for his life and will not submit his life to God's guidance, he is quenching the Holy Spirit" (*Ibid.*, p. 303).

It is the Holy Spirit that enables us to realize we are children of God (**Romans 8:16**). It is the Spirit of God who prompts the believer to pray to God (**Romans 8:15**). Therefore, to grieve the Spirit or to quench the Spirit is to truly hinder our own prayer life.

The Spirit of God can operate at a maximum level in all areas of ministry through a clean vessel. But an unclean vessel hinders the Spirit's ministry in every single way.