

THE MODEL PRAYER

Matthew 6:9

Introduction: A study of Jesus' prayer life is most revealing. His prayer life was never at the mercy of moods, nor time. He persisted in prayer (Luke 6:12) Jesus prayed before every great crisis, baptism, selection of apostles, transfiguration, Gethsemane, and on the Cross. Jesus' prayer contained communion, thanksgiving, petition and intercession.

The disciples noticed His prayers were different, He got results. They wanted to know how to pray (Luke 11:1).

Much can be learned from the prayers which God answered. Profit can be had by studying the prayers God did not answer. Jesus' pattern for prayer is called the "Lord's Prayer," the "Disciples' Prayer," the "Model Prayer," etc..

Let us examine our own prayer life. Have we followed the instructions Jesus gave? The "Lord's Prayer" was not given for us to memorize but to FOLLOW as a model. This Model Prayer looks up to God, looks inside to personal needs, and then looks outward.

I. FIRST, COMMUNION WITH GOD MUST BE ESTABLISHED

1. There must be a complete surrender of the heart and will to God's will. God must become the center of your thoughts. HIS will, HIS work must be YOURS.
2. How obedient are your thoughts? Are you actually interested in what God wants of you?
3. What, Who dominates your thoughts? Can you even maintain concentration upon the thought that you are trying to talk with Almighty God?
4. Are you really willing to do whatever God has in mind?

II. COMMUNION ESTABLISHED, SURRENDER OF WILL, AND NOW PETITION

1. What requests dominate our prayers? Are not most our requests for ourselves? Mostly?
2. Are our lives in such bad shape that all our praying must be done to keep our own record clean? What does God probably think about our prayer life?
3. What can we do to become more of what God wants so we can begin to PRAY FOR OTHERS?

III. ONCE RIGHT OURSELVES WITH GOD, WE CAN PRAY FOR OTHERS

1. God will not hear a selfish prayer. If this is true, and it is, about how many prayers have you prayed that God ignored?
2. For the LOST TO BE SAVED is greater than anything we might think we need for ourselves.

3. For BACKSLIDDEN Christians to get right with God is also more important than most of our requests.
4. When the Christian gets him/herself right with God, then he/she automatically prays for others and SELF is seldom mentioned.

CONCLUSION:

1. Prayer is a gift and a privilege.
2. Prayer is every Christian's responsibility.
3. Prayer is the least source of power exercised by the Christian.
4. Jesus gave the disciples a model to sue to get results. It is still good, it still works.