

## THE RIGHT ATTITUDE FOR PRAYER

### Matthew 6:9-13

**Introduction:** All of us have "prayed" but what did we say? Who were we talking to? Did we really mean what we said? Did we even remember what we "prayed" for later? Jesus gave some very clear instructions about prayer and among some of those instructions is one that indicates having the right attitude for/in prayer. So, what is prayer? It is fellowshiping with God, it is surrender to God, it is requesting of God, it is praising God, just to name a few things that describe prayer. Let's take a look at the right attitude we need to have in prayer.

### I. THERE IS THE ATTITUDE OF SURRENDER

#### 1. To God our Father.

- As we have contact with our earthly world, we also have contact with the heavenly world and that is through "prayer."
- As we have a family relationship with our human family, we also have a family relationship with God and other believers.
- Our earthly family is a source of love, care and such, with parents providing for their children, so it is with our heavenly Father who is a source of love, care and provision.

#### 2. To God's Heaven.

- Heaven is the place of God's throne.
- Heaven is where God reveals His power, glory and handi-work.
- Heaven is the place of our eternal citizenship, where we will eventually go from down here.

#### 3. To God's Holy Name.

- God's name is above all other names, no matter where, earth, heaven, etc.
- God's name is to be glorified and praised.
- God's name is to be treated differently, to be set apart from all other names.

### II. THERE IS THE ATTITUDE OF REQUEST AND PLEA

#### 1. For God's Kingdom.

- Request that God's rule and reign be down here with us as well as in heaven.
- Request that one's life be in tune with God's plans for him/her.

#### 2. For God's Will.

- Request for God to do as He pleases with us.
- Help in not being displeased for what God wants of us.
  - What we might want, what others might want of us, what Satan wants us to do competes with what God's will is for us.
- Helping us know what God's will is in order to do it which requires obedience and fellowship.
- Desire for God's will to be done down here where it is desperately needed for there is so much sin, corruption, suffering, pain, death and trials.
- A desire to make earth more like heaven.

### **3. For Daily Bread.**

- A daily request for God's provision.
- Acknowledgement of God's care for us.
- The need to learn how to live one day at a time as God wants.
- Everyone (rich, poor, etc.) needs God's daily care and provision.

### **4. For God's Forgiveness.**

- Forgiveness of our debts, obligations and failures to fulfill as they should have been.
- Forgiveness when we fail to do His will.
- Forgiveness in the same manner and degree that we forgive others.
  - Those inside the Church Family and those outside the Church Family as well.
    - Even those who hate us, curse us, gossip about us, etc.
- The kind of forgiveness which forgets, does not begrudge or harbor bad thoughts.
- Remembering that an unforgiving spirit causes pain and hurt to all involved.
- Aware that we curse ourselves by praying this prayer for we are asking for the same judgment and treatment that we give others who have offended us.
- This plea is conditional as we sin against God and others do the same to us.
- Forgiving others is proof, evidence that God has forgiven us.

### **5. For Deliverance.**

- Help from the pull of temptation.
- Help in resisting the evil one, Satan.
- Help because sin causes God great hurt and pain and we don't want to hurt God.
- Help because sin causes trouble, guilt and grief for all involved.
- Help is needed for us to live as we should.

## **III. THERE IS THE ATTITUDE OF PRAISE AND COMMITMENT**

### **1. Because everything belongs to God.**

### **2. The believer belongs to God.**

- God's kingdom, His power, His glory
- Heaven is the believer's eternal home because God's grace has saved him/her and all God has is the believer's inheritance.

### **3. For only God has the right to rule.**

### **4. Because God needs nothing from us, but He deserves our all.**

### **5. AMEN, so be it; it shall be!**

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. How does one get a prayer answered? Jesus gave very clear instructions.
2. What is prayer? It is talking directly to/with almighty God, Himself.
3. Prayer is the most important part of a Christian's life. How is your prayer life?