

The Pattern of Effective Prayer

March 9th & 10th, 2013

Matthew 6:7-15

In Matthew 6:7-15, Jesus first addresses the prayers of the Gentiles as ineffective (Matt.6:7). The Gentiles use “empty phrases” and “many words” and Jesus cautions His disciples “Do not be like them” (Matt.6:8). Jesus then gives the pattern of effective prayer to His followers.

Jesus’ revelation concerning prayer highlights six specific points:

1. The Presence of God

“Hallowed be Your Name”

📖 *Exodus 3:13-15*

God’s Name, (Yahweh) “I Am Who I Am,” contains the description of His character and personality. He is the self-existent One who never changes and will always be true to His Word.

📖 *Philippians 2:9-11*

Jesus’ Name is above all others!

❖ A commandment with a warning

Exodus 20:7 “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.”

❖ God’s enemies take His name in vain!

Psalms 139:20 “They speak against You with malicious intent; Your enemies take your name in vain.”

2. The Priority of God

“Your kingdom come, Your will be done”

❖ Jesus is the King of God’s kingdom!

↳ In prayer, we ask that God’s will not ours would be done. We are surrendering our lives to the Lordship of Christ!

“Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?” Luke 6:46

❖ Jesus directs His followers to seek His reign in their lives.

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” Matthew 6:33

3. The Provision of God

“Give us this day our daily bread”

❖ God knows our needs before we ask, but we need to express our total dependence and trust in His ability to provide! *Matthew 6:31-33*

❖ God gave a daily portion to His people.

“Then the Lord said to Moses, “Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day’s portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not.” Exodus 16:4

4. The People of God

“Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”

📖 *Matthew 6:14*

📖 *Colossians 3:12-17*

This passage expresses God’s way to maintain healthy relationships with others.

❖ Forgiveness is key to a close and growing relationship with God!

5. The Power of God

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil”

- ❖ God will not tempt us to do evil!

“Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am being tempted by God,’ for God cannot be tempted with evil, and He Himself tempts no one.” James 1:13

- ❖ We are to be aware of the pitfalls of temptation.

“And when He came to the place, He said to them, ‘Pray that you may not enter into temptation.’” Luke 22:40

“Give us the necessary strength so that life’s trials do not become for us occasions of spiritual temptation.”¹

- ❖ God will help us endure temptation without compromising His Word or His Will!

“No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.” 1 Corinthians 10:13

6. The Praise of God

“For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.”

📖 *Psalm 145:10-13*

📖 *1 Chronicles 29:10-13*

Psalm 34:1-3

***“I will bless the Lord at all times;
His praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad.
Oh, magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt His name together!”***

Endnotes:

¹Tasker, R. V. G. General Ed., *The Tyndale New Testament Commentaries*, 20 Vols., Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1961.

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