

Pray Like This

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Author: Caleb Wray

Today begins our 30 Day Challenge of reading through the New Testament. We will be looking at passages from our readings in the next several bulletins as well as in some of the sermons we have. We also will be featuring the readings and passages on our Facebook page. Today's article comes from a lesson we see in the Sermon on the Mount.

In Matthew 6:9-13, we see what many title "The Lord's Prayer". Many people still pray this prayer today and you hear it recited by great numbers of individuals. The question is raised, can we pray it today?

First, I want to point out that in verse 10, it says, "Your Kingdom come." In Acts 2, we see the kingdom coming with power & the disciples speaking in tongues. As we studied a few weeks ago, we saw that the kingdom is a present kingdom with a king (Jesus), subjects (Christians), and a law (The Bible). Secondly, I do not believe that this pray was ever intended to be lip-service and a recited prayer. I myself am guilty of reciting prayer. When we make prayer recitation, it loses the communication aspect. If we are merely reciting words, then our heart is not in it. We are not having an open and heartfelt conversation with God, instead we are merely speaking for the appearance of speaking. Jesus says in verse 9, "Pray, then, in this way" or in other versions "Pray like this". Jesus was giving a model of prayer to God. This prayer was intended to teach one how to pray.

In our prayers, we should involve the same aspects that Jesus talks about here in this passage of "The Model Prayer". Jesus starts the prayer giving recognition to God the Father. We are communicating with Him, and need to acknowledge Him in a right way. Jesus also mentions praise and honor to God in His prayer (Hallowed by Your name). In our prayers, we need to give God praise and honor and glory. He is worthy to be praised for all that he has done for us. In giving reverent worship, especially in prayer, we are to honor God.

In verse 10, we see the phrase "Your kingdom come". While we do not pray for the kingdom to come, since it is present already, we do pray for the kingdom and its growth.

We should be praying for the work of the kingdom, for the workers in the kingdom, for those struggling, for those who need to obey the Word & become members of the kingdom, those who have strayed, etc. We need to be focused on the kingdom in our daily prayers.

We also see “Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven”. In Heaven, there is only one will. Selfish will does not exist there, it is only the will of God. We ought to pray for guidance to act as God wants us to do. We ought to pray that we will always look to God’s way (the Word) and not our own.

Verse 11, “Give us this day our daily bread”. We sometimes pray for our physical needs. Involved in that is gratitude. We need to be thankful for what God gives us and what we are able to have. I remember when I was moving here, we were coming up on the weekends looking for places to live. We went to a local restaurant on that Saturday and four hunters walked into eat. They sat down, ordered, and then as the bread was brought to the table, they bowed their heads and offered thanks. I was amazed to see that, as it is something you see less and less of each year.

Verse 12, “Forgive us our debts”. In our prayers we ask for forgiveness from God, but notice that we are asking from a place of being a forgiving people. (as we have forgiven our debtors). We must be mindful to forgive others! Verse 13, “And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil”. Again asking for guidance, protection, and assistance.

The remainder of the passage is not included in the earliest manuscripts (For Yours is the kingdom, power, glory forever. Amen). I think the best lesson we see in it, is reminder that it is God’s will to be done and not our own.

There’s much more we could include in our prayers, such as praying for family, leadership of our country, etc. The goal we have to press for is to be a people of prayer.

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