

Remnant Life Church

May 26, 2013

## Prayer-

### The Perfect Blueprint

Matt. 6:9-13, Luke 11:2-4

- Few cannot recite the verses of the “Lord’s Prayer” (or at least think they can - 2 men bet)
  - But that name is really not accurate
  - The true “Lord’s Prayer” is found in John 17 when Jesus is getting ready to fulfill His Father’s Will and prays for Himself, His disciples and all believers
  - This is the “Disciple’s Prayer”
- The disciples, having seen the amount of time that Jesus spent in prayer, must not have thought they knew how to pray in an effective way
  - Jesus changed the way people prayed
  - Prior to Jesus there was an unapproachable, fear-based awe of God that the people held
    - Exod. 19 – God gives instructions to the people when His presence is on the mountain
    - The people learned to fear the presence of God as powerful, mighty, terrifying
    - People prayed but it was not prayer to a father but to Almighty God
    - Today - we have moved too far in the other direction
  - Many of the learned men of the priesthood and those who studied the law would not even say His name out loud
  - Jesus uses the familiar Aramaic word of Abba meaning daddy over 60 times in the gospels referring to His Father
    - This was a word of very personal reference reserved for someone of a close relationship
    - Jesus was teaching that the relationship with God, through Him, would change from one of a distant, unapproachable deity to a caring, loving Father

- Jesus used this intimate word with all of His prayers to His father with the exception of one
  - **Mark 15:34** –“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (quoting **Psalm 22:1**)
    - When Jesus had taken the sins of the world on Himself He lost the intimacy with His Father
    - By quoting the words of King David He again claims the fulfillment of the prophecies
  - Paul tells us in **Gal. 4:6** that we too have that same intimate relationship as the sons and daughters of God – His children

1. Shouldn't speaking to God be as easy as speaking to people like you do every single day?

- a. Our thinking regarding prayer needs to change
- b. (Review)

- i. It is not about the position of our bodies but the position of our hearts
- ii. It is not about the quantity of words but the quality of them
- iii. It is not about telling God about what we need it is telling God how much we need Him

2. How Jesus taught His disciples (us) to pray

(Seven parts –

- 3 “Your” petitions – God's role as our Father
- 4 “Us” petitions – our needs as His children
- a. We first call Him “Our Father”
  - i. Approaching Him as a loving father
  - ii. Praying not a rote, memorized prayer but out of relationship
  - iii. This entire prayer is based on relationship and the only way we can have that is by accepting Jesus Christ as our personal savior

(The 3 “Your” petitions)

b. Hallowed be **Your** Name

- i. Jesus teaches us to honor God first before we say anything else
- ii. This postures our hearts properly
- iii. We honor Him with our lips in prayer but also in public by how we speak as well as our actions
- iv. We cannot pray this prayer and not honor Him with our lives

c. **Your** Kingdom Come

- i. We acknowledge that God’s kingdom is not yet ruling on earth
- ii. The tense used is one of inevitability
- iii. God’s kingdom will rule over everything and everyone
  1. We cannot pray this and not submit our lives to Him
- iv. The more we submit our lives to Him, humbling ourselves every day, the more God can work in and through us

d. **Your** Will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven

- i. We are not asking God to change His will to suit us or bless our will
- ii. We are asking for Him to do His will in us
- iii. *Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground. (Psalms 143:10)*
- iv. Matthew 26 Jesus praying in the garden
- v. Much of what the Christian struggles with through life can be dealt with by simply embracing this simple sentence



(The 4 “Us” petitions)

- e. Give **us** this day our daily bread
  - i. None of us have to be concerned about if we will eat only what we will eat
    - 1. We are reminded of our total dependence on God
  - ii. Bread is not just about food but about all our physical needs
  - iii. This also is true of our spiritual needs
    - 1. Jesus calls Himself the bread of life – ministering to our souls (**John 6:35**)
    - 2. We need a fresh touch of Jesus in our spirits and bodies EVERY DAY
  - iv. This is also to assure us of what we need in life
    - 1. (**Matt. 6:34**) Don’t worry about tomorrow
    - 2. Almighty God cares about our daily needs
  
- f. Forgive **us** our sins
  - i. We are asking...
    - 1. For God to forgive us of our sins
    - 2. Give us a forgiving spirit to forgive other
      - a. (**Matt. 6:14-15**) Immediately Jesus gives a warning that if we do not forgive others God will not forgive us
      - b. We know we need to eat everyday but we also need to forgive everyday
  - ii. This is a prayer being prayed by Christians regarding Christians – a “family” prayer
  - iii. *NOT* “Lord forgive me my sins and I will TRY to forgive others!”
  
- g. Lead **us** not into temptation
  - i. First, God does not tempt us

1. To tempt in the sense of how we use that word is to lead into evil
2. *When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; (James 1:13)*
3. This deals with testings that God allows
4. *Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. (James 1:2-3)*

h. Deliver **us** from evil

- i. We need to be under God's protection to not fall into evil
- ii. Especially in the times of trial or difficult testing
- iii. Many translations use the phrase "from the evil one"

3. Prayer should follow this simple blueprint

- a. Begin by focusing on who you are speaking to
- b. Focus on His priorities first
- c. Present your petitions
- d. Ask for His pardon
- e. Recognize your need for His protection
- f. Give Him glory

Know that when you pray you are sharing your heart with your Heavenly Father who loves you and wants the very best for your life according to His perfect will. (John 3:16)