



Teaching Notes: Ray Davis

May 9 2010

Prayer

(Loving hold of God's Willingness)

desert breeze community church

“CONNECTING I”

"Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance, but laying hold of His willingness." Martin Luther.

Biblically and historically, the one non-negotiable for revival is personal and corporate Kingdom-centered prayer.

The corporate prayer life of a church is only as healthy as the personal prayer life of the individuals that make up that church.

Matt. 6:5-13

The Priority of Personal Prayer:

- Private prayer is a key indicator of the authenticity of my faith. (V5) The word “room” refers to an inner room — a storeroom in the inner part of the house, a room without windows. The issue here is motivation.

“The secret of religion is religion in secret.” - A. H. McNeile

“What you are on your knees before God is what you are and nothing more.” - Robert Murray M'Cheyne

- The only reward for private prayer is relationship with God. (V6) While corporate worship may have other rewards, such as applause, social support, reputation, and so on.
- The reason we have emptiness in our life is because we don't know how to pray. (V8) “Your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.” Prayer is hard and like any relationship it takes time to develop.

The Pattern of Personal Prayer:

The Lord's Prayer is a pump primer, scaffolding, it is a model on which to build your prayer life. It tells you everything you need to know about communication with God.

Basis of Prayer: “Our Father in heaven”

You never have a conversation with someone without a basis. When you approach anyone your basis determines your level of exchange.

- There are only two basic ways to approach God: As a Religious person (v7 “Gentiles”) or a Family member (vv8, 9 “Father” - a child). (v7; Eph. 2:8-9, 8:9)
- To call God Daddy means that you are approaching Him on the basis of what Jesus did on the cross to bring you into the family as a son or daughter. (John 1:12; Gal. 4:4-5)
- Jesus was the 1st to call God Daddy and if you belong to Him you automatically receive His status. The Father is as committed to you as He is to Jesus! (John 17:26; 1 John 3:1)
- A good father will either give you what you ask for or give to you what you should have asked for if you knew everything that he knows. (v8; Heb. 12:5-11)
- If we really believe that God is our daddy, we wouldn't be worried, we would never feel sorry for ourselves, and never feel resentful and angry that we've been dealt a bad hand in life. Don't go on until you get that! (Rom. 8:15-17)
- If you want to learn how to pray don't look to religious people, but to children who have a good daddy and watch how they interact with him. The more you get it that God is dad the more you will pray. (Luke 11:9-13; Ps. 103:13)

Continue to pray for an intensified work of the Holy Spirit in your life, family and DB family. That the person and work of Jesus Christ would become more real to us as we become more attentive to sin, assured of His grace and aware of His Presence. That God would show us His glory beautifying the church making us more attractive to this world. Pray and meditate on the implications of the Basis of Prayer: “Our Father in Heaven” - until it becomes explosively alive in your heart. (John 1:12; Gal. 4:4-5; John 17:26; 1 John 3:1; Heb. 12:5-11; Rom. 8:15-17; Luke 11:9-13; Ps. 103:13)



Growing

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1) Biblically and historically, the one non-negotiable for revival is personal and corporate Kingdom-centered prayer. The corporate prayer life of a church is only as healthy as the personal prayer life of the individuals that make up that church. Explain.

2) Read Matt. 6:5-13. What should be the priority of private prayer in a Christian's life? How is private prayer a key indicator of the authenticity of my faith? What are some obstacles for private prayer? What are some of the rewards for private prayer (v6)?

3) The reason we have emptiness in our life is because we don't know how to pray. Explain. It takes years to get to know someone. When you are with a friend that you've known for many years the conversation flows and is very natural. How do those two statements relate to our relationship with God?

4) What does it mean that the Lord's Prayer is a pump primer, scaffolding, it is a model on which to build your prayer life? When you approach anyone your basis determines your level of exchange. Explain. What is the basis of our relationship with God?

5) What are the two basic ways to approach God? What does it mean that if you belong to Jesus you automatically receive His status? What two ways will God respond to us His children in prayer? What difference would it make in your life if you really believed that God is your daddy? Take time now and pray the