

Prayer

(experiencing awe & intimacy with God)

desert breeze
community church



Saturday & Sunday, April 11/12, 2015

Ray Davis

“How to Pray” Luke 11:1-13

We can pray because God is our loving Father, Christ is our mediator giving us access to the throne of the universe, and the Spirit Himself indwells us (Eph2:18). Learning how to pray is about learning the heart and art of prayer.

The Heart of Prayer:

- 1) Successful prayer is less about art (what and how we pray) and more about heart (who we are in coming to God). vv1, vv2-4 Art of prayer, vv5-13 Heart of Prayer
- 2) The heart of prayer is seeing yourself as desperate in this world, however prosperous you may be. vv5, 6, 7, 8 “Impudence,” 9-10
- 3) No matter how great your earthly circumstances become, they can never bring you the lasting peace, happiness, and consolation that are found in Christ. vv11-13; Phil3:7-11; Jer29:13; Heb11:6
- 4) We can't see it because our heart's loves are disordered: God's love, favor and presence is not existentially as important to us as our prosperity, success, status, love, and pleasure. Matt22:37-38; 1Jn2:15-17
- 5) If we have made God our greatest love, and if knowing and pleasing him is our highest pleasure, it transforms both what and how we pray for a happy life. Pro30:7-9

The Art of Prayer:

- 1) Once you have reordered your loves you are ready for the specifics of what and how of prayer. I.e. The Lord's Prayer: Adoration, Worship/Praise, Intercession, Petition, Confession, Warfare vv2-4
- 2) Should we pray for change of circumstances or just for strength to endure them? Yes, Both. Matt26:39; Dan3:16-18; Heb11:32-39

3) Make prayer a habit through regular discipline of a specific time and place. It is a good thing to let prayer be the first business of the morning and the last at night and a lot in between. V1; Mark 1:35; Luke 4:42; 1Thess5:17

4) Pray regardless of your feelings but do everything you can to focus your thoughts in order to warm and engage your affections for God. Lam3:41; Ps34:8; Satisfaction Ps63:3; Longing Ps42:1; Repentance Ps73:21-22

5) Build on your study of the Scripture through meditation, answering the Word in prayer to the Lord and be aware of the Holy Spirit's leadings. Ps1:1-3, 119:18; Rom5:5, 8:15-16; What did the original author intend? How does it fit into the whole Bible? How does it affect my relationship with God, myself and others? ACTS—Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication. Pray the Lord's Prayer.

Growing Notes

- 1) If a friend asked you to teach them how to pray, what would you say to them? What does it mean that we are to pray to a loving Father, in the Name of His Son through the Holy Spirit (Eph2:18)? What do you think is more important in learning how to pray: Heart or Art? Explain.
- 2) Read Luke 11:1-13. What stands out to you from this text? What would you say is the main point of this text? Why is “desperation” at the heart (vv5-13) of prayer and more important than the art (vv2-4) of prayer?
- 3) How do “disordered loves” keep us from seeing that lasting peace, happiness and consolation are found only in Christ (Phil3:7-11; Matt22:37-38; 1Jn2:15-17)? How would making God your greatest love and highest pleasure change what and how you pray (Pro30:7-9)?
- 4) Should we pray for change of circumstances or strength to endure them (Matt26:39; Dan3:16-18; Heb11:32-39)? Which stage best represents your current affection for God in prayer: Satisfied (Ps63:3) or Longing (Ps42:1) or Repent of having neither one (Ps73:21-22)? What is your best time and place for disciplined prayer (Mark 1:35; Luke 4:42; 1Thess5:17)? Pray.