

PRAYER AS WORSHIP TO GOD

Matt 6:5-13

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Jesus taught disciples to pray Matt 6:5-13. They continued in prayer which is worship to God Acts 2:42
- B. One of the outstanding duties, privileges, and joys of the Christian's life is praying to God.
- C. It is the Father's will that his children pray to Him 1Thess 5:17; Heb 4:16
- D. Prayer of a righteous man availeth much Jas 5:16
- E. Directing words to God doesn't necessarily mean one worships God. They may indeed be vain words.
- F. Let's look at prayer as worship to God

DISCUSSION:

I. JESUS SET EXAMPLE FOR US BY PRAYING MUCH

- A. Jesus praying is example of worship 1Pet 2:21
 - 1. After his baptism Christ prayed Lk 3:21
 - 2. Before choosing the apostles, He went to mountain and prayed all night Lk 6:12
 - 3. When he sent the multitude away, he went to the mountains apart and prayed Matt 14:23
 - 4. Got up before day and prayed Mk 1:35
 - 5. In parting message to disciples, Whole chapter a prayer - He prayed for disciples Jhn 17:20-23
 - 6. Prayed three times before his arrest Matt 26:36-46
 - 7. While dying on the cross he prayed Lk 23:34-46
- B. A person who doesn't pray cannot be a follower Jesus

II. EARLY CHURCH WORSHIPPED BY PRAYING AND GIVING THANKS Acts 2:42

- A. Church prayed for Paul in prison Acts 12:5
- B. Christians are admonished to pray
 - 1. Continue instant in prayer Rom 12:12
 - 2. Praying with all prayer and supplication Eph 6:18
 - 3. Continue in prayer & watch with thanksgiving Col 4:2
 - 4. Pray without ceasing, give thanks 1Thess 5:17,18
 - 5. Supplications (a wanting, a need - an asking, entreaty), prayers (talking to God), intercessions (seeking the presence and healing of God on behalf of others), and giving of thanks (gratitude) be made for all men; 1Tim 2:1
- D. Many above passages show close inter-relation of prayer and thanksgiving
 - 2. God is giver all good and perfect gifts Jas 1:17
 - 3. Receiving God's blessings without giving thanks is to live on level of pigs eating acorns under trees and never look up to see where they come from

III. PROMISE TO ANSWER PRAYER IS CONDITIONAL

- A. May pray & not heard (answered) Jas 4:3; Jhn 9:31
- B. Some conditions of acceptable prayer to God
 - 1. Righteous 1Pet 3:12; obedient 1Jhn 3:22
 - 2. Ask in faith Matt 21:22
 - 3. Forgiving spirit Matt 6:15
 - 4. Right motive in prayer Jas 4:3
 - 5. In harmony with God's will 1Jhn 5:14
 - 6. In Jesus name Jhn 14:13
- C. Adhere to conditions for prayer to be acceptable
- D. Posture is not a condition of acceptable prayer except as it indicates humility and submission
 - 1. Standing 1Ki 8:22
 - 2. Bowing down Psa 95:6
 - 3. Kneeling Acts 20:36
 - 4. Falling on the face Matt 26:39
 - 5. Lifting up the hands 1Tim 2:8
- E. Posture one thinks appropriate would be expedient as long as it is decent and in order 1Cor 14:40

IV. THINGS FOR WHICH A CHRISTIAN SHOULD PRAY

- A. Forgiveness of sins Acts 8:22
- B. Not enter into temptation Matt 26:41
- C. Daily necessities of life Matt 6:11
- D. Earthly rulers 1Tim 2:1,2
- E. Sick; Jas 5:14; Enemies Matt 5:44
- F. Laborers to enter the harvest Matt 9:38
- H. Preachers and for Lord's word to be glorified 2Thess 3:1
 - I. All children of God Phil 1:9-11
 - J. For God's will to be done Matt 6:10
 - K. Kingdom to increase, not to come, it's here Col 1:13

CONCLUSION:

- A. The model prayer given by Jesus gives us an insight into prayer Matt 6:9-13 (1) It is addressed to God; (2) Gives adoration to God; (3) supplication for the Kingdom; (4) Petition for daily sustenance; (5) ask for forgiveness; (6) for deliverance from the evil one and (7) contains an ascription of glory to God
- B. Prayer is not only expression of gratitude and need, the supply of which is sought of God, but is a beautiful expression of trust, submission, and union with God.
- C. If you are a child of God, you have the privilege of praying to God as your Father. If you are not a child of God, you can't address God as your Father and expect Him to hear (answer) your prayer.