



I AM A CHURCH MEMBER

MOUNT CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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Church Theme: "Let's "BE" The Church" (2nd Corinthians 6:16; Matthew 5:14 – 16)

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Discovering the Attitude that Makes the Difference

P r i n c i p l e s o n P r a y e r

As I've reflected on the words of our Pastor Emeritus, Dr. Clyde Hill, Sr. during the pastoral installation and in lesson four instructing us to pray for our church leaders, it is imperative for us the know the principles on prayer.

I'm fascinated with the fact that the disciples never asked Jesus to teach them how to preach, to heal, to deliver, to raise the dead, or even to multiply bread, but in Luke 11:1, they asked Him to teach them how to pray.

I'm not going to try to explain why we don't pray; however, I will prayerfully present principles on what prayer is, why we should pray, to whom we should pray, and when we should pray.

Prayer is the offering up of our desires for lawful and needful things and things we want that are promised by God. It is the pleading of our case in God's court. Prayer is seeking help from God in matters that are beyond our power. It is the personal appeal to a personal and present God based upon His will and Word.

Prayer does not align God to our wants, but aligns us to God's will. Through Jesus Christ, answered prayer is for God's glory and for our good.

There are numerous recorded prayers of Jesus in the Bible. Just to name a few:

1. He prayed on the occasion of His baptism.
2. He prayed when He felt the crowds trying to pressure Him.
3. He prayed before selecting the twelve disciples.
4. He prayed at the tomb of Lazarus.
5. He prayed before feeding the multitude.
6. He prayed in the Upper Room with those faithful men.
7. He prayed before going to Calvary.

The Purpose of Prayer

We are C _____ to Pray

Luke 18:1

We are C _____ to Pray

1st Thessalonians 5:17

We are C _____ to Pray

Hebrews 4:16

The People (Types) of Prayer

The S _____ Prayer	Luke 23:40 – 42	- The Prayer for Salvation
The S _____ Prayer	Matthew 14:30	- The Prayer for Strength
The S _____ Prayer	Luke 23:34	- The Prayer for Sinners

The Principles of Prayer

The prayer found in Matthew 6:9 – 13 isn't a prayer that Jesus "prayed", but a prayer that He taught. We often hear this prayer recited at weddings, at funerals, and frequently in hospitals. Some families recite it at mealtime and others at bedtime. There are just 66 words in this prayer, but it has become the basis of countless sermons, books, and even songs. This prayer is perfectly balanced. It teaches us to look first to God, then to ourselves. It teaches us to forgive and receive forgiveness. And it teaches us to depend wholly upon God for everything.

Matthew 6:9 – 13

⁹ After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. ¹⁰ Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

“The Model Prayer” or “The Lord's Prayer”, as it is commonly called, is the most famous prayer in the world. It should more accurately be called “The Disciples' Prayer”, since the prayer asks for forgiveness of sins—and we know Christ never sinned. I believe it is called “The Lord's Prayer” because He taught it, not because He prayed it.

Go into any church that uses this prayer in its services and you will find almost the entire congregation able to recite it from memory. Many people who are not regular church attendees know this prayer. Pastors, parents, and people have spoken and taught it for generations.

Before teaching His disciples this prayer, Christ focused on some principles that will help us pray this prayer in a way that honors Him.

Do Not Pray Like the Hypocrites.

In Matthew 6:5, Jesus points out how the Pharisees loved to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets where they could be seen by others.

Do Not Pray Like the Heathen.

Jesus said, "And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him" (Matthew 6:7-8).

Difference between the Hypocrites and the Heathen

The Hypocrites are Private
 The Heathen are Public

The Hypocrites will throw a rock and hide their hand
 The Heathen will stand up, look at your face, and then throw the rock

Pray in the Language of Heaven

As we study this prayer, we will discover some of the greatest theology ever put into writing.

Notice the emphasis on God in the first three petitions: Your name, Your kingdom, Your will.

Then notice the second part of the prayer and its emphasis on the poverty of man: us—we need daily bread; us — we need forgiveness; us — we need protection from temptation; us—we need deliverance from evil. In the first part of the prayer, it is "Thy, Thy, Thy."

In the second part, it is "us, us, us, us."

God has all the glory and all the power and all the majesty, and we have all the needs and all the wants and all the poverty. He has everything, and we don't have anything.

As we go down through the prayer, we discover principles to help on our pilgrimage.

1. The **P**_____ of the Prayer "Our Father"
2. The **P**_____ of the Prayer "Which art in heaven"
3. The **P**_____ of the prayer "Hallowed be"
4. The **P**_____ of the prayer "Your name."
5. The **P**_____ of the prayer "Your kingdom come."
6. The **P**_____ of the prayer "Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven."
7. The **P**_____ of the prayer: "Give us this day our daily bread."
8. The **P**_____ of the prayer "Forgive as we forgive"
9. The **P**_____ of the prayer "us and our debtors."
10. The **P**_____ of the prayer:
 - Inwardly "And do not lead us into temptation"
 - Externally "but deliver us from the evil one."
11. The **P**_____ of the prayer: "For thine is
 - Potentate "the kingdom"
 - Power "the power"
 - Praise "the glory"
12. The **P**_____ of the prayer "forever."
13. The **P**_____ of the prayer "Amen."

Homework

Answer the questions according to the scripture reference.

1. **Luke 18:1**

People should always _____ and not _____.

2. **1 Thessalonians 5:17**

Pray without _____.

3. **Hebrews 4:16**

We should come _____ to the throne of _____ that we may obtain _____ and find _____ in time of _____.

4. **Matthew 14:30**

When Peter was sinking, what three words was his prayer?

_____, _____, _____.

5. **Luke 23:34**

What was Jesus' first prayer on the cross?