



## GOD-CENTERED PRAYER

(Praying GOD's Word, GOD's Will, GOD's Way)

My last Blog was an Urgent Call to GOD's People to Wake Up and Pray...to seek GOD in HIS Word and pray GOD-Centered, GOD-Honoring, GOD-Glorifying prayer! I don't know about you, but that's not always easy for me. So often I can tend to pray what "I" think needs to be prayed based on my intellectual and emotional response to the world. So, I thought we would listen to Jesus on prayer ([Matthew 6:5-18](#)).

<sup>5</sup>"When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full." GOD said in 2 Chronicles 7:14 - "If MY people will HUMBLE THEMSELVES..." Be mindful of GOD. HE is GOD; we are not. Do not hastily rush into HIS presence in the power of the flesh. Flesh profits nothing. We do not want to dictate our demands to GOD. *LORD, have Your way with me in this holy time of quiet fellowship.*

<sup>6</sup>"But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you." Now, absolutely yes we are to pray without ceasing throughout the day. However, it should be the desire of our heart to get quiet and alone with GOD at some point each day. Get into a quiet, secret place to meet with GOD. Turn off the music. This is time to cease striving, to be still and know that HE is GOD ([PSALM 46:10](#)). It's a time to listen to GOD and to commune with HIM.

<sup>7</sup>"And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. <sup>8</sup>So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him." Long, wordy, windy prayers don't necessarily mean that they are more spiritual. GOD already knows the details! GOD knows the need -- more than we know; and HE knows how best to respond. It's not many words that draw GOD to us -- HE draws near to a heart that longs to draw near to HIM ([James 4:8](#)). What amazing grace that GOD draws near to us when we draw near to HIM!

<sup>9</sup>"Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father Who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.' We as GOD's children are praying to our Father (Abba) -- which is a term of endearment very much like our saying "daddy". However, when we think of the word daddy, we think of a little child running to their daddy. But Abba has a more solemn address of respect and honor to Daddy. Abba is both an endearing and a respectful term. GOD truly is the born again Christian's Father ([John 1:12-13](#)); HE is ALSO the Most High GOD whose throne is in heaven. Because HE is the GOD of heaven, our greatest desire is to hallow HIS name! We desire to honor HIM with our adoration, praise and prayers as the HOLY GOD that HE is! HE is worthy and deserving of our full attention, and we bow our hearts before HIM in submission to HIS will and Word, and we present our petitions to HIM with HIS honor and glory of utmost importance!

<sup>10</sup>"Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." We center our prayers on the building of GOD's Kingdom and the accomplishment of HIS will! Our heart's desires are separated from our wants and are focused on #1 GOD (Father, Son, Holy Spirit -- Three in One) and #2 Others. For example: *Father, help me to direct my prayers so that Your kingdom and Your will be accomplished! By the Spirit Who helps me pray rightly, help me pray that Your will be done in me, my family, my church, my state, my nation and the world... that Your will and Your kingdom be honored and glorified above all things...* Jesus HIMself prayed: "not My will, but Yours (Father) be done" ([Luke 22:42](#)). In [Acts 21:14](#), the believers prayed that "the will of the LORD be done" as they prayed for the Apostle Paul -- knowing he would be going to Jerusalem and would be put in chains.

<sup>11</sup>"Give us this day our daily bread." Yes, it is important for us to pray for our physical needs, and I think most of us are pretty good at that. But, let's remain in a GOD-centered, kingdom-building focus in these verses and ask HIM for what we need in order to do the work HE has called us to do! "Father, please provide what I need as Your servant and soldier for Your kingdom!" This does include physical needs [food/water/clothing/shelter/funds], but by far we need spiritual bread (Jesus is the Bread of Life). We need to pray for GOD's provision for whatever is needful (physically AND spiritually) to carry out the work of the LORD, and our main concern in our request is GOD's honor, glory, will and our being able to accomplish HIS will and advance HIS Kingdom.

<sup>12</sup>"And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." [<sup>14</sup>For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup>But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.] *Father! Forgive us of our sin against You and others! (1 John 1:5-9) We especially seek GOD's forgiveness for our sin of resentment and unforgiveness against those that have wronged us!* WE WILL TALK MORE ABOUT REPENTANCE IN THE NEXT BLOG AS THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR A STRONG PRAYER LIFE.

<sup>13</sup>"And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]" GOD does not tempt us, but HE can sometimes allow satan to sift us. Our Savior JESUS intercedes for us and strengthens us to turn away from temptation ([Luke 22:31-32](#)). Here in prayer we express our heartfelt desires to GOD to help us avoid the dangers of sin as we labor each day for HIS Kingdom and HIS will. We need GOD to lead and strengthen us to endure and persevere through the trials and tribulations of this world and the onslaught of assaults by the evil one and his emissaries.

<sup>16</sup>"Whenever you fast, do not put on a gloomy face as the hypocrites do, for they neglect their appearance so that they will be noticed by men when they are fasting. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. <sup>17</sup>But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face <sup>18</sup>so that your fasting will not be noticed by men, but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you." For those that are being called to fast, make sure that your fasting is not an outward work to be recognized by people.

MAY THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD HELP US ALL TO PRAY GOD'S WORD, GOD'S WILL, GOD'S WAY IN THESE URGENT DAYS!



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