

Prayer Is Patterned

Text: Matthew 6:9-15

INTRODUCTION:

1. Prayer is crucial and must be central in the life of a Christian.
2. Jesus demonstrated that prayer was a priority in His life.
3. Thankfully, He also taught His disciples how to pray (cf. Luke 11:1ff).
4. From Jesus one can learn the pattern of prayer...

I. PRAYER AND GOD'S REVERENCE (MATTHEW 6:9)

- A. Prayer begins with faith in God (Hebrews 11:6).
- B. Prayer depends upon the Fatherhood of God (Matthew 7:7-11).
- C. Prayer depends upon the majesty of God.
- D. Prayer depends upon the holiness of God (Psalm 111:9; Malachi 1:11).

II. PRAYER AND GOD'S KINGDOM (MATTHEW 6:10)

- A. The kingdom is the royal rule, the power and authority of God.
- B. The kingdom is the church (Revelation 12:10-11; 1:5-6, 9; Acts 20:28).
- C. The kingdom exists today!
 1. Thus, we do not pray for the kingdom to come.
 2. Instead, we pray for it to grow and prosper.

III. PRAYER AND GOD'S WILL (MATTHEW 6:10)

- A. God's will is supreme (John 5:30; 6:38; Matthew 3:15; 26:42).
- B. God's will is revealed (Hebrews 10:9; Matthew 12:50).

IV. PRAYER AND GOD'S BLESSINGS (MATTHEW 6:11)

- A. God is the source of all physical blessings (Exodus 16:4, 20; Philippians 4:6).
- B. Thus, in prayer He is acknowledged and asked for all good things.

V. PRAYER AND GOD'S FORGIVENESS (MATTHEW 6:12, 14-15)

- A. God is the source of all spiritual blessings (1 John 1:8-10; Acts 8:22-24).
- B. Through repentance, confession, and prayer the Christian can be forgiven.
- C. God longs to forgive man's sins (Acts 3:19; Hebrews 8:12).
- D. Yet, He also expects man to be forgiving (Ephesians 4:32; Matthew 18:21-35).

VI. PRAYER AND GOD'S GUIDANCE (MATTHEW 6:13)

- A. God guides by means of His Word.
- B. God does not lead man into temptations to sin (James 1:13).
- C. God provides a way of escape, but He does not force one to take it (1 Corinthians 10:13; Matthew 26:41).

VII. PRAYER AND GOD'S GLORY (MATTHEW 6:13)

- A. God rules with authority in majesty.
- B. Through Jesus, prayer is made to the Father who rules on high (John 16:23-28).

CONCLUSION: *Strive to learn and to follow the Lord's pattern for prayer.*

Practical Prayer

Exercises

Prayer Is Partnered

1. Read Luke 11:5-13. What is the role of God the Father in prayer?
2. Read John 16:23-28. What does it mean to pray or ask in the name of Jesus?
3. Read 1 Timothy 2:1-6. What is a mediator? How is Jesus the one mediator between God and man? How does this affect your understanding of prayer?
4. Read Hebrews 7:24-25. What is an intercessor? How does Jesus make intercession for man? How does this affect your understanding of prayer?
5. Read Romans 8:26-28. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in prayer? How does He serve as an intercessor for the saints?
6. What does it mean to you that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all involved in your prayers? Does this affect your desire to pray? Does it change the focus of your prayers?