

Mount Pisgah A.M.E Church

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Bible Study, Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Developing Christian Character Building Blocks for Christian Living The Centrality of Prayer

Communing With God

What IS prayer? (Matthew 7:7)

A pattern for prayer: (Matthew 6:9-14, KJV)

Our Father	Intimacy, terms of endearment
Which art in Heaven	Recognition of God's sovereignty
Hallowed be thy name	Worship – who God IS
Thy kingdom come	Expectation – Waiting on the promises
Thy Will be done	Submission to God
On Earth as it is in heaven	Spiritual reality is behind earthly events
Give us this day our daily bread	Supplication, dependence on God
And forgive us our debts	Confession of sin
As we forgive our debtors	Releasing of others from debt of sins
And lead us not into temptation	Repentance
But deliver us from evil	Supplication for release from oppression
For thine is the kingdom, & the power & the glory forever	Final doxology, or statement of praise

Some elements: Adoration (worship & praise, recognition of who God is), Confession (admission of guilt and repentance), Thanksgiving (believing IN ADVANCE for what God has promised) and Supplication (for self, for others)

We have to come to God IN FAITH! (Hebrews 11:1, 6)

We should pray at all times, but there are also “special times and places” (Matthew 6:5-6)

Adoration

Who is God to you? (The great surgeon, the lawyer who never lost a case, the heart fixer, the mind easer, the security guard, the great provider etc.) Tell God that.

Look at Isaiah 6:1-5- When we are truly entered into the presence of God, and behold how awesome God is, God then turns the light around and points it at US. Who WE are in comparison immediately becomes evident. Many shy away from real, authentic worship and prayer because it requires an HONEST look inward. Thus the next step is confession.

Confession

Confession is saying what God says about my life. In areas where I'm in line with God's Word, it's praising God for that. For the areas in which I'm NOT, it's acknowledging that and committing to TURN from those ways that are not pleasing

1 John 1: 9

Confession makes forgiveness and restoration possible

James 5:16

Regular confession to others keeps us accountable – helps us not to avoid difficult areas.

Galatians 6:1,2 There must be a spirit of compassion for the confessor no matter how ugly the sin.
Matthew 5:29, 30 Confession must always be accompanied by a willingness to change

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving in prayer expresses faith in God's forgiveness and God's desire to help, and in God's ability to bring to pass that which you've asked for. We should give thanks in all situations: before, during, and after the deliverance.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 Thanksgiving in ALL things is the will of Christ
Daniel 3:17-18 The 3 Hebrew boys recognized that God is ABLE.

Even if God's answer is no (which God has the right to say), we recognize that (a) God knows what's best and will take care of us, and (b) Our change may come on the other side of the Jordan, or (c) we may not be ready for the blessing just yet.

Supplication/Intercession

Supplication is when we ask God. God SAYS to ask. NOT asking God for those things that we need indicates a false sense of independence, or self-sufficiency. Do not be ashamed to ask.

Personal Supplication Matthew 18:18-20, Acts 4:31
Intercession Acts 12:1-5, 11-12, 16-17

Visioning Victory

Visualization can be a powerful asset in prayer. We envision the answer to our prayer. If you can see it in your spirit, and SEE the Lord blessing it, you can pray "believing that you shall receive." (Matthew 21:22)

If you really KNOW God, have been in God's presence, it is impossible to SEE God blessing a self-centered prayer. See James 4:1-3

What do the following statements mean to you?

- Prayer is the highest work of the human spirit
- To pray is to change.
- We must never wait until we *feel* like praying before we will.
- Prayer is not an activity in life, it IS life.

We are too busy NOT to pray. Martin Luther said: "I have so much business I cannot get on without spending three hours daily in prayer." Jesus took time to pray: Matthew 14:23, Mark 1:35, Luke 6:12, Hebrews 5:7
Who do we think WE are NOT to take time to pray??

When God's people get serious about prayer, God will move in unprecedented ways (2 Chronicles 7:14)