

Welcome to the ekklesia fellowship!

Fellowship with the Father The Pattern of Prayer

October 9, 2005

The Pattern of Prayer

Luke 11:2 and Matthew 6:9,10
Jesus gives us the *pattern* of effective prayer.

The Pattern of Prayer

1. This is the pattern of prayer for *formal* and *informal* prayer as well.
2. Two major divisions: “your” and “us”
 - Jesus always put His Father first!
 - This probably exposes a fatal weakness in our prayers – which so frequently begin with us!
 - We rush too quickly into our problems, our needs, our irritations, our struggles, our...
 - This only serves to focus our attention on what is already troubling us in the first place.
 - It also increases our awareness of ... us! (*Heb. 12:2*)
 - Perhaps this is why we frequently end up more *depressed* and *frustrated* even when we do try to pray through things.

The Pattern of Prayer

3. Jesus teaches us first, that prayer begins with a word of relationship: *Father*
 - When we come to God in prayer, we are experiencing fellowship with a very personal and intimate Person – *the Father*
 - We are not entering into theological dialogue and talking about God!
 - “Oh, thou great and dreadful Master, welcome to this unworthy and miserable dwelling”
 - We must take a slow, calm, reassuring gaze at the Father – His Greatness, His Beauty, His Faithfulness, His Love, His Provision, His eagerness to help and give us what we need.
 - Father! [Luke 11:11-13](#)


The Pattern of Prayer

4. “Hallowed be Thy name”
 - Hallowed means *holy* and *honored*
 - When we pray, “hallowed be Thy name,” we are praying, “may the whole of my life be a source of delight to You and may it be an honor to the name which I bear, which is Your name”
 - David models this perfectly in [Psalm 19:14](#)
 - Notice, Jesus never teaches us to pray for:
 - Help to be good *OR* help to do and be better...
 - Help to progress deeper in my sanctification...
 - Instead, Jesus turns our attention entirely away from ourselves and toward the Father, the only sources of true help!!

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“We cannot have any contact with God, any real touch of His power, any genuine experience of the glorious fragrance and wonder of God at work in our lives until we truly pray, ‘Hallowed be your name in my life.’” – Ray Stedman

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4. "Hallowed be Thy name"
 - When we pray according to Jesus' instruction, everything else follows naturally!
 - "You do not command a stone which is lying in the sun to be warm. It will be warm all by itself." – Martin Luther
5. "Thy kingdom come"
 - This is a cry of hope!
 - Hope for His future kingdom to be established
 - And it is a cry that the Father's will may be done right now, in the midst of the blood and sweat and tears of my life.
 - The Father is often accomplishing the most when it is least evident that He is even at work.
 - "Fruit don't grow on the mountain, but in the valley"
 - My Scarlet 

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"Behind the scaffolding of tragedy and despair, God frequently builds His empire of love and glory. When we think God is silent, when we feel God has removed His hand and we no longer sense the warmth of His presence, God frequently is at work accomplishing the greatest good for ourselves, for others, and for His eternal plan." – Ray Stedman

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Summary:

"Father, you are so faithful, beautiful, lovely, patient, kind, generous, and loving. May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight. Father, there is no area of my life that I hide from you. Search me, and illuminate the dark corners of my life. Try me, and know my anxious thoughts. Through these present circumstances in which I now find myself – these painful troubles and struggles – may Your kingdom come and may You be glorified in the midst of what You are so lovingly doing in and through me right now."