

Section: Doctrine of the Holy Spirit (Pneumatology)

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Lesson 80 - Q.101 & 102

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**TEACHING NOTES**

Tonight we will study Question 101 & 102 in your WOTC

**Q101. In what way has God commanded the saved to communicate to Him?**

We are to communicate to God in persistent prayer.

**Tonight we have a lot of ground to cover as we consider what Prayer is and what it isn’t and then how to pray.**

**First let’s consider the WHO of Prayer**

**2. Trinitarian Prayer**

**The God of the Bible is a triune God, which means three distinct persons (Father, Son & Holy Spirit) who are one GOD!**

**-Prayer is Communication with the triune God.**

We do not call any other form of communication with people, prayer. **WHY?**

Because it belongs to God and to do this would be to profane prayer by putting it on something else.

**We pray to God.** Not to other people or other created material.

Prayer is communicating with the one true God!! That is it.

**When we pray, the Triune God is intimately involved.**

**As Christians, our prayers are Trinitarian.**

Our **prayers are to the Father, through the Son, by the Holy Spirit.**

It’s important we see the intimate and vital involvement of the Trinity in our prayers.

For example, Without Jesus, our prayers to the Father, would not go farther than the ceiling.

**1 Timothy 2:5** For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus

This is important so let’s take a moment to better understand the vital role of …

**Jesus the Mediator**

The Active and ongoing ministry of Jesus after ascending to the right hand of the Father is to mediate for us with the Father. Whether that is to mediate our prayers or his standing in mediation for us on judgment day.

**Q75 in the WOTC speaks to one of the vital roles Christ plays and that is the role of Priest.**

**How is Christ our Priest?**

Christ is our Priest because He gave Himself as a sacrifice in our place to satisfy the wrath of God, and He is in continual intercession to God the Father on our behalf.

**Church, the truth is, we are so absolutely desperate for Christ to be our Priest.**

**WHY?** Because is Holy and we are not. And therefore we needed a representative to go before the Holy God to represent us, to intercede for us and to mediate for us!!

Without Christ as Priest we have not hope and not ongoing life with God.

Without Christ as Priest we have not one to mediate between us and the Father.

Without Christ as Priest we have not one to mediate our prayers between us and the Father.

Jesus ongoing work to mediate our prayers is a special loving, vital role he does every day.

He faithfully connects the line between us and the Father.

**Understand, we are never put on hold and the line is never busy.**

Jesus faithfully mediates all of our prayers to the Father!

Without His atonement in our place we would have not reconciliation or connection to God.

So, Jesus Christ is the intercessor and mediator. There is no other way. No other medium.

Jesus alone is the mediator of our prayers.

 Let’s also take a moment to better understand the vital role of …

**The Power of the Holy Spirit in our Prayers**

Without the Holy Spirit we would not have the power to pray to God.

**Romans 8:15-16** you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God

**In this the Holy Spirit comes along side of our spirit and testifies with it.**

**How do we know the God of the universe will listen to little ol me.**

**How do we know he hears what we are saying?**

The Holy Spirit is one with the Father **and is the one at work within you as you Pray**. Trust in Him!

Paul says in Ephesians 6 **that we are to pray at all times in the SPIRIT!!**

 **(Ephesians 6:18** praying at all times in the Spirit)

Pastor Sinclair Ferguson brings some important clarity to this when he says..

Praying in the Spirit means ***relying on His power and wisdom, not on our own.*** This means submitting our mind, thoughts, will, and desires to be influenced and mastered by God’s word. We thus began “to think God’s thoughts after him,” develop instincts that are aligned to His will, and ask for those things that He has revealed please Him and that He promises to do. It is the expression of a life lived out in the presence of God… Prayer is the overflow of how we live (in the presence of God). In essence, prayer involves bringing God’s promises back to Him, in the context of all that He has told us about Himself, His character, and His will, and saying, “Father, you are all that you have revealed yourself to be; you will keep all the promises you have made. . .Therefore I come to you to ask for. . .”

Another layer of what the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives means is the presence of true faith in God.

Church, we must have ***true faith*** when we pray to God.

If we do not believe in the one whom we are praying to (God the Father)

or the one whom we are praying through (the mediator Jesus Christ)

and the one by whom we are able to Pray (the Holy Spirit) **then we are not praying at all**

**but doing something else entirely.**

There is no true prayer without true faith because ***without true faith, who are you talking to?***

True prayer requires true faith in the triune God!

We only have true faith if the Spirit has given us new birth and has come on board to will and to work out our faith in God in all things.

The Faith that is exercised in prayer is a faith or ***a trust in God*** that He will accomplish his perfect will every time. **It is the Spirit’s work to empower this faith to truly trust in God in prayer**

**As Christians, our prayers are Trinitarian.**

Our **prayers are to the Father, through the Son, by the Holy Spirit.**

Now, that said, this doesn’t mean we can’t petition Jesus or the Holy Spirit in prayer.

The Christian can surely call out to Christ and or the Holy Spirit in our prayers.

We see this in places like, Acts 7:59 when Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my Spirit”. We also, often, ask the Holy Spirit to do His mighty work in a given situation or to show us the way according to the word.

The point I am majoring on is that we need to be careful to not adopt a modalistic mindset whereby the God we pray to is only one person and we interact with him to the exclusion of the other two eternal persons of the Godhead. “*God exists eternally as one God, three Persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit.” -WOTC Q3*

My hope is that we better understand the roles the three persons of the Godhead play in our prayers so that our prayer life is fuller and richer and deeper than it has been in the past.

**Next let’s consider the WHEN of prayer!**

**2. Praying All The Time**

There is something else we see in Paul’s words in Ephesians 6:18 that are foundational in our prayer life and that is the emphasis that we would pray at all times. Listen to it in its fullness.

**Ephesians 6:18** praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

Church: **God’s word regularly tells us to pray all the time.**

**1 Thessalonians 5:17** …pray without ceasing,

**Romans 12:12** …be constant in prayer.

**Why is there so much emphasis to pray all the time?**

Because **when you finally have access to the one true almighty, all glorious, all satisfying, all powerful God, why would you not talk and walk with Him all the time?**

I know many Christians who say they would like to be more constant in prayer but they can’t seem to figure out how to actually do it. I think one of the reasons why many people get tripped up there is because they are only thinking of “prayer closet” prayer.

***Prayer closet prayer*** is that special and specific time that you prioritize to get alone and turn off all the distractions and noise and just be still and focused on God in prayer. I’ll speak to that more in a moment.

But prayer doesn’t have to only be private and formal and slow and devoid of life’s noise.

When you pray “all the time” or “unceasingly” you do not stop everything and dial God up and speak long winded things and then formally hang up the call.

No, ***it is an all the time, informal, walking and talking with God that literally is unceasing.***

Think about it with me… what would your life look like if you really were in tune with the fact that God is always with you? Every little step of the way, every thought you had, everything you looked at, everything you said. **How much more would you honor Him, enjoy Him and feel close to Him?**

The thing is: God is closer to us then we know how to fathom and yet we are the ones who are all too busy and constantly tuning Him out.

While formal prayer is good, we must learn to pray more often and more along the way.

Think about the formal and or big life moments of life that you typically pray.

**Before Meals, Before Sleep, Before big game, test, event., Before travel, And in emergencies or sticky spots.**

**Have you ever wondered if God ordains many of your sticky spots simply so you will pray to Him?**

Think about what you have in the gospel in that you have unhindered access to the living God.

Think about the fact that the all-knowing, all powerful, all glorious God is fully focused on you and hears every word of every prayer you make. Think about what He is able to do.

Who God is and the access and relationship we have with him because of Christ is why we ***“Pray at all times”*** Praying at all times is how we enjoy our reconciled relationship with God. It is how we stay focused on God.

 **Church: We should Pray all the time because God is all-powerful:**

**Jeremiah 32:27** “Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for me?

**Matthew 19:26** But Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

**Why would we not go to the one who holds all things in his hands. To trust Him & rest in Him?**

**We should Pray all the time because God is the source of peace, help, comfort and healing.**

**2 Corinthians 1:3-4** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

Peter says, cast.. all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. **1 Peter 5:7**

**Phil 4:6-7 .. do not worry.. instead pray and he will give you peace beyond understanding.**

**Oh how we need to Pray. My hope is that we are all growingly become people who pray all the time.**

**4. Quality Time in our Prayer Closet**

Ok, now, let’s talk about prayer closet prayer. First, **Why is it called that?**

Are we supposed to actually pick a closet in our house and decorate it and put a pillow on the floor and that’s where we formally pray.

You know***, “They made a movie about that”…*** I don’t remember what it’s called because I never saw it because it’s my understanding that it is full of unbiblical Christianize… that is a mess.

The term ***“prayer closet”*** comes from Jesus words in …

**Matthew 6:6** But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Some translations say “inner Room”.

So, **where is an inner room in a house?** The closet. It is the small room in the room.

All of this is really missing the point. All Jesus is pressing for is the opposite of what he just said the pharisees were guilty of doing which was praying in public not for worship or true abiding with God but for a public show of self and manmade accolades and respect.

The inner room or prayer closet is essentially just a space you can be private with the Lord without distraction and temptation to put on a show and make prayer something it is not.

**How did Jesus model this in his own life?**

Not by putting a pillow in a closet.. no he did this by finding quite space in nature.

Why, because doing it outside is better. No, not necessarily.

Some people will over emphasize that too. Saying, they have to go to “God’s country” and get out in nature to really connect with God. That is also putting too much on the location.

God is everywhere. The space that is quite and removed is for us and not for HIM!!

Jesus went to nature because he didn’t have a home or a closet to retreat to.

**Matthew 8:20** And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.”

Again, it’s not about the actual space.

When we make too much of the space we over focus on the creation when the entire point is to be keenly focused on the creator. We see Jesus do this often in verses like…

**Luke 5:16** But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray.

**Luke 6:12** In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God.

**Mark 1:35** And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.

**Silence and Solitude is really important for our prayer life!!**

One of the greatest tools of the enemy to keep us from pryaing more is noise. Music, media and this.. YOUR PHONE!!!

We have to address the things that keep us from really making time to be alone with God in prayer.

**Christian, what are you doing to literally schedule time alone where you have nothing that is able to pull you away. To unplug and be still with God, where you can read your bible and talk to God in prayer?**

Prayer Closet prayer that is private and slow and more dedicated time to **“Be still and know that He is God…” Psalm 46:10**

**Now let’s consider the HOW of Prayer:**

**5. How NOT to Pray:**

**I mentioned earlier Jesus speaking about how we are not to pray.**

In **Matthew 6:5-8** Jesus gives us some great insight that we need to rightly understand!!

**Matthew 6:5-8**And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 6 But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

7 “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Real quick, let’s talk about the last part before the first. Jesus says ***“your Father knows what you need before you ask him”***

Christian, please understand, prayer is not telling God something He doesn’t know. God Knows!

It is not uncommon that I will ask people, **have you talked to God about that?** And they will say, NO NO, I do not want to bother him with this one. Ummmm… ? To late!

**You would be so much better off to just talk to him.** **WHY?**

Because He knows more about the who, what, when, where, and why then you do! SO…

**Why would you keep him out of it??? He is omnipresent. You can’t bother Him. He is more present than you know how to give him credit!!!**

**Church: Prayer is not telling God something He doesn’t already know but it is inviting God to move in and through us in that situation or moment.**

**As a father I love it when my kids invite me to share in what they are feeling or going through.** Same with our God, Prayer is us linking up with him to see that thing through in a way that honors Him and brings him Glory and us JOY!

Back to **Matthew 6:5**

Jesus says, **Do not pray like Religious or Irreligious people do.**

Irreligious people have no connection with God and therefore they **“heap up Empty phrases”**

Religious people like to put themselves in public to press their self-righteous ways on other people.

They like to use lots of fancy words and go on and on in an effort to be impressive to God and others. **A Religious prayer is proud and full of posturing…**

GOSPEL prayer is humble and authentic.

GOSPEL prayer is respectful and not bossing God around.

What I want you to begin to see is much of what determines your prayer life is based on how you understand and know God.

**Now, PLEASE UNDERSTAND THIS:**

**There is an important reason why we do not pray “like” other religions and “with” other religions!** Because …**they aren’t praying!**

**Because prayer is by the power of the HS, through the mediation of Jesus Christ to God the Father. True Prayer is ONLY to one true God**.

Every other religion is worshipping Counterfeit, little “g”, man-made gods.

The bible says that anything posing to be God are really demons.

**1 Corinthians 10:20** No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons.

Here is the point.. it is not enough to be spiritual, or to be religious.

**You need to know who God is. Not only that but you need to trust in Jesus with your life!!**

**Why? because we need the Holy Spirit to power our prayers and Jesus to mediate them!!!**

**Some will ask at this point in the lesson, what about the non-believer crying out to God in prayer? Does God hear their prayers?**

**The answer is more wooden than some may like but it is this.**

**God hears and knows everything!!**

**The bigger question is: Are they really praying?**

**Or are they just speaking out loud in a way that they are calling prayer?**

**Church: the heart of stone does nothing by faith in God.**

 **If and when, a person is being given spiritual life and they are reaching out to God in the faith he is giving them, then yes, they are praying!!**

**If not, then, no in their pride and rejection of Christ as Lord, they are not praying!!**

**Church: May we not pray like the unbelieving or the Prideful!!!**

As we look to Jesus teaching on “how to pray” in Matthew 6, I want you to notice that Jesus starts by telling the disciples who God as he begins to teach them how to pray.

**Matthew 6:9** Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name”

**Notice,** Jesus says.. PRAY then LIKE THIS.. Don’t miss that point of clarity.

Jesus is not saying: **PRAY exactly this**… Like a mantra!

He says “pray like this”. The emphasis in what He is teaching is about balanced prayer and not that this is the only thing you should say when you pray like many can be guilty of doing.

Some will just recite this prayer and check a box. May we all be careful to not every make the beauty and wonder of talking to God in prayer just checking a box in formality.

**Matthew 6:9-13** Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

10 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread,

12 and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**6. Praying to Our Holy Father**

 ***“Our Father*”**

These first two words are essential to see fully before you go any further when trying to understand prayer.

When we are saved. When we are given Life in Christ we are restored to the eternal family of God.
This means, We are no longer on our own.

This means, It is no longer just “me and mine” but “us and ours”!

So when Jesus says, “OUR” Father. He is showing us we are not alone anymore but a part of something special and lasting. Something bigger than ourselves.

Brother/sister, when you pray you need to be regularly reminded you are no longer and orphan and you are not an only child. NO, you are part of something very special. The wonderful blood bought family of God!!

**Our who? …OUR FATHER!**

**14 TIMES IN THE OLD TESTEMENT God is referred to as Father in the context of him being the father over all of Israel and the father over all of Creation!**

**In the 4 Gospels Jesus speaks to or about God as Father.. *60 times.***

Did you know that there is no prayer to God where anyone addresses him as Father until JESUS does! This is an awesome clarity that we need to not miss.

New Covenant Prayer is to God as Father!!!

**One of the biggest impacts on how your prayer life goes is dependent on how you look at God.**

Understand….

**God is not impersonal**.. He is personal**..** He is loving.. **He is not far away**.. He is close…

**He is not distracted and busy** .. He is involved intimately in the moment by moment life of his children. OF YOUR LIFE!!!

**What is also shows us is that our prayer life is to be respectful (like you would be with your father) but not Formal (like you would be with an unknown authority like a President or a King.)**

Many people do not really like prayer because they grew up in a religious tradition that taught you to have a **formal interaction with God**..

**( hold this, says this, face this direction, pray at this time of day, etc)**

**UNDERSTAND… That is a totally different team! God is a loving Father. He is “our Father.”**

This means we are respectful but we also can have a more personal interaction that is not formal and cold.

**What this also means is that God hears all Christian’s prayers no matter who they are.**

<>The elderly Pastor who prays in an almost angelic chant using the words of the ancients and the creeds

<>And the Surfer who knows only about 5 words (epic, rad, gnarly, stoked, and awesome) and uses them all in every sentence.

**A helpful example of this is my kids.. When Savanna wants to spend time with me and cuttle she doesn’t say to me “Dearest FATHER, I beseech thee… to cuttle with me… in thy dwelling place, most often known as the Living ROOM.”**

**She doesn’t do it that way…. WHY? because I am her Father.**

**She says, Excuse me, Daddy.. Yes Savanna…. Can weeee cuttle?**

**It doesn’t need to be formal and take 45 minutes and she doesn’t need to lay prostrate on the floor humming while facing the master bedroom to address me.**

It’s the same with prayer, When we pray we are not depending on our delivery, style and perfectly execute monologue. **We are dependent of the mercy and grace and love of our heavenly Father, the perfect work of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit!**

Christian, you have to **stop making prayer all about you** and let God work in and through you so that it is personal and authentic and enjoyable.

Prayer is ultimately about God and your loving connection with Him now and forever!!

**Before we move on, let me highlight one more aspect of God as Father.**

***God is a Father. Not a Mother!*** This is why we worship him as God and not Goddess.

We call him Father because He is the Holy and Eternal Father of the Son and all whom He has chosen from before time and adopted into His family. We are His kids of Grace!!! RIGHT?

Now for some of you.. this “God is our Father” language is hard because of your relationship or lack thereof with your blood father. It is hard in a very real way for you because you do not know such as thing as a loving, present, caring, interested Father.

Maybe, because you never had one who was around or when he was he was distracted, he was mean, arrogant, or even abusive. Maybe he never cared to spend time with you, maybe he walked out on your mom, or he won’t return your phone calls.

**For those of you who relate** I want to encourage you with this:

**Do not judge God by your earthly father.. Judge your earthly father by heavenly Father.**

Psalms says.. *God is a father to the fatherless.* (Psalm 146, 68, 40…)

God is the truer & better Father! Brother, Sister, **PRAYER IS TALKING TO YOUR ETERNAL Father**

Jesus says,

**Our Father in heaven!**

Heaven here does not mean he is far away…

Answer this for me: **What are you picturing when you pray?**

 **a God far away.. up in the clouds… one that you have to shout to?**

Beloved: God is not far. He is closer and more present than we know how to understand.

**Heaven, here, means that He is high & exalted! It means he is the King over all things!**

**How cool is that?** It means, There is no one or nothing that is outside of his authority!

**As we continue our closer look at Matthew ch 6, we see Jesus teaching what simple and balanced prayer looks like.**

**This leads us to our second question tonight:**

**Q102. What is prayer?**

Prayer is pouring out our hearts to God in praise, thanksgiving, confession of sin, and expressing our requests to Him while submitting to His sovereign will.

Over my years of ministry and growing in my personal prayer life, I have come to love 4 main areas of prayer that we see here that help me to not overcomplicate my time of prayer but to bring balance and to cover the important and needed areas of prayer that Jesus teaches.

We see these emphasized and modeled in scripture, especially in Jesus teaching here in Matthew 6. My hope tonight is to introduce you to them or if you know them already, than to remind you of the importance of each of them as we aim to practice the spiritual discipline of prayer better and better.

Let’s look at these with me as we prepare to wrap up tonight.

**1. PRAISE**

**The first of the four areas of a balance prayer life is, Praise Prayer!**

Let’s pick up where we left off last week in Matthew 6:9 where he says,
**Matthew 6:9** Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, **hallowed be your name.”**

Hallowed here means set apart. It is Jesus way of Praising and exalting God the Father.

**Praise Prayer is talking to God with total respect and honor.**

It’s not about us and what we get… it’s about God and how great He is.

When we praise Him in prayer we don’t get in the way and make it about us but instead our focus is on the true royalty and greatness of God. Praise prayer is all about HIM and his glory and His attributes!

**1 Chronicles 29:11**Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all.

I personally like to start my prayers with a keen focus on Praising God just as Jesus models here.

This helps put me in a right and ordered mindset as I approach God in prayer. It reminds me who He is and who I am in light of His glory. It shows respect for Him instead of just selfishly running into His throne room with all my request.

For me, as I often go to prayer I want to slow down and have the proper awe for who He is.

Really considering, who it is I am talking to.

While feeling totally 100% invited into his presence to share, and be lead forward by his all-powerful grip on everything.

Praise Prayer is not for us, but it does help put ourselves into a right place in relationship to God. It Humbles us and gives us a right sense of ahh for His majesty and power.

**Psalm 66:17** I cried to him with my mouth, and high praise was on my tongue.

Another layer of Praise Prayer is to Thank Him for all He is and has done and is doing.

Prayers of gratitude express thanks to God for who He is and how He is at work in all things.

 Listen to how Paul and Kind David spoke of this in their writings…

**1 Thessalonians 5:17-18**  pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

**Ephesians 5:20**  giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

**Psalm 7:17** I will thank the Lord because he is just

**Psalm 30:12** Oh Lord my God I will give you thanks forever

**Psalm 95:2** Let us come before him with thanksgiving

**Acts 13:48** they were very glad and thanked the lord for his message

**Philippians 4:6** “Don’t worry about anything, instead pray about everything.

Tell God what you need and thank him for all he has done!” (NLT)

Oh there is much to thank God for. If you are every running low on what to pray about…. Just think of all that you have to thank God for and go to prayer!!

So, as you go to prayer, PRAISE HIM. Thank Him!! Honor him as Yahweh.

He is the one by whom and for whom all things exist.

Take a moment to consider who it is you are talking to in great respect and reverence.

Ok, let’s look at the **Second area** of a balanced prayer life and that is Repentant Prayer.

**2. REPENT**

**Jesus says in v12…**

**Matthew 6:12** and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

It is here that Jesus is teaching us that our prayer life should include time to address the reality of sin in our lives. One of the big ways scripture speaks to dealing with sin is in the area of forgiveness and confession and repentance.

Jesus point here in v12 is that we should spend time addressing the sin in our life and the reality that others will sin against us.

**In the context of this passage Christ was teaching the disciples how to pray (remember he is not giving them a mantra to recite but a brief instruction of what prayer should look like and what it shouldn’t look like.**

**Don’t forget, when Jesus was teaching the disciples how to pray he had not yet gone to cross to pay the atonement for their sins. So seeking God in prayer for forgiveness was still a good and right practice.**

A simple theological clarity is helpful here to shape how we think about our prayer to God regarding our sin now that he has died on the cross in our place and risen to conquer death.

For all who are saved and set free **In Christ, You are Forgiven!**

**Colossians 1:13-14** He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

It says that “In Christ” **we have**.. **Forgiveness of sins**

For those who have trusted their lives to Jesus as savior and Lord, we have been changed, washed, cleansed, restored, made Holy, a new creation! We are no longer kept from a relationship with a Holy God because of our Spiritual Debt. It has been paid for and is finished. We are forgiven in Christ!

**Colossians 2:13-14** When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made youalive with Christ. He forgave us **all** our sins, **14** having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.

**🡪Our certificate of debt, which brings death, was nailed to the cross**

**Our new Identity in Christ means… You are forgiven!**

**What this means is we do not need to ask God for God’s forgiveness after we are saved but instead need to thank Him that we are forgiven.**

Christian: You are forgiven. To ever diminish what Christ has fully and finally done for you!!!

**So what do we do, when we sin after we have been saved and forgiven by God?**

**Scripture tells us that we are to REPENT!**

We are to go to God in **Repentant Prayer**!

Repentant prayer includes 3 important steps!

**1. Confession** 2. **Repentance**  **3. THANKFULLNESS**

**Let’s look at each of these!**

**- Confession:**

The word **“Confess” means “to agree together with.”**

Confession is a truthful and humble admittance. To be humble is to see yourself rightly in the holy and bright light of God. **Confession is an admittance that agrees with God, who is truth, that something *is what it is*.**

When we truly confess, we are saying, ***“I am not lying to myself nor to you about this.***

***I am admitting that it is what it is according to God’s holy standard”***

So, confession is acknowledging, ***“I have sinned!”***

It is agreeing with God that you did it; you are guilty.

It is standing before the judge or the highway patrolman or your parents or brother or sister in Christ, and admitting that you did it; that you are guilty.

You are not trying to paint a story on it nor making it something it is not. It is standing before God or another person and declaring, ***“This was sin. You call it sin. I am calling it sin. I am saying out loud, ‘I sinned!’”***

God understands & knows all our sin but it is key that we fully confess & understand our sin before him. True Confession of our sin before God sets the heart up for true Repentance.

**1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

In v9, John, shows the opposite of the prideful deceived person who will not admit their guilt or confess their sin. The person who truly knows God and is reconciled to God has a God empowered conviction to not hide sin or make excuses for it and to not try to cover it up but it is their joy to confess it, to admit clearly what it is so that they can turn from it.

**They do this because their aim is to honor God and not themselves in all they do!!**

**Proverbs 28:13** Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper,

but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.

There is a real enslavement and trapping that we experience when we hide our sin or make excuses for it instead of dragging it into the light.

To not confess sin is to deny to others and to self that we sinned. This has terrible consequences to one’s life and testimony. The most extreme is not any horizontal consequence but the revealing of our vertical reality. Listen to what John says in v8..

**1 John 1:8** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

When we decide to make excuses, to self-justify, to lie or hide the reality of our sin we deceive not just others but ourselves and we prove that the truth of God is not in us. We prove to lack the light of Christ that illuminates the darkness and exposes the sin for what it is.

While confession of sin is very exposing and at times very hard, we who belong to Jesus want to do it because we want something more than Not experiencing the pain or embarrassment or consequences of exposing our sin… we want to know God, walk with God and honor God!

We have come to see that nothing is greater than that. Listen to the heart of David in…

**Psalm 32:5** I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity;

I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

One of the keys to Repentant Prayer is to sit is silence.

To be still and quite before God. **Why?** Because **the Holy Spirit** will reveal to us things we don’t think of. Sin that we need to acknowledge.

**Psalm 19:12-13** How can I know all the sins lurking in my heart? Cleanse me from these hidden faults. Keep me from deliberate sins! Don't let them control me. Then I will be free of guilt and innocent of great sin.

We want to be honest about what has happened or is happening because we love Jesus and we do not want to be in the darkness living a lie and satisfying the flesh.

**So we bring it into the light by declaring it what it really is: it’s sin!**

**“It is fitting,” writes John Calvin, “that by the confession of our own wretchedness, we show forth the goodness and mercy of our God, among ourselves and before the whole world” (Institutes, III.IV.10).**

True Confession leads to True Repentance.. So what is Repentance exactly.

**If Confession is Admittance! -**To agree together with God that we did sin

**Repentance is New Direction!** It is surrendering your current sinful path to move to a righteous path.

Oh how, we need to practice Repentant Prayer more than we do.

I hope this is a growing part of your prayer life moving forward.

The third area of prayer is seen in v11 and 13.

**3. ASK**

**Matthew 6:11**Give us this day our daily bread,

**Matthew 6:13**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**What Jesus is showing us here is that we need to bring our request to God.**

**We need to Ask**. **This is *Supplication which means to ask for something!***

**THIS BRINGS UP A GREAT PRACTICAL ?: WHAT SHOULD WE PRAY ABOUT?**

**The answer is Everything.**

**Philippians 4:6** do not be anxious about anything, but ***in everything by prayer and supplication*** with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

IF ALL THINGS EXIST FROM GOD AND HAPPEN THROUGH GOD AND ARE FOR GOD…

**Why Would we not engage him on everything?**

**Why would we think about Keeping something from his grip?**

Please know your heavenly Father loves to hear and respond to his beloved children.

**So we need to Pray for even the little things..**

What is cool about praying for the little things is it is a beautiful walk you are sharing with God in the daily ins and outs of life. It is a recognition that “He is present and He is able” in all things.

**Back to Matthew 6:13**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**One of the other WHAT to pray for is seen here:**

**This is a prayer for ongoing sanctification!**  We need to grow away from evil, sin, selfishness and unto righteousness and holiness in sanctification.

It is a prayer that acknowledges that God is Sovereign and over all things.

**Why should we ASK?**

We bring all our request to God because He wants us to and because He will Answer!

**Do you trust that he hears you and that He will answer when you pray?**

**1 John 5:14** And we can be confident that he will listen to us whenever we ask him for anything in line with his will.

It is important that you see God as Faithful! As present! That he will hear and answer your prayer

**We need to always remember: prayer is answered in Gods time and in his way…not ours.**

If it’s not fast enough for you, You need to stop and remember and be ok with the fact that it is going to happen when God wants it to! He will accomplish His perfect and Holy will!!!

**Who should we pray for?**

**Matthew 6:11**Give us this day our daily bread,

This is another place that Christ emphasizes the communal reality of belonging to the family of God! He says, “our” and not just “me and my”. We need to pray for one another and the family of God.

**Pray for your Friends:**

Jesus modeled this in..

**Luke 22:31-32**“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you,  that he might sift you like wheat,but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”

**Church: We need to be praying for each other!**

When appropriate: We lay a hand on their shoulder and pray..

Why do we lay hands on the person we are praying for?

**Because it makes the prayer stronger**?… no!

We do this because it is a sign of love, intimacy, affection, care. Of Community.

**Jesus also teaches us to…**

**Pray for your enemies:**

**Matt 5:44** But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

What a powerful testimony it is when we humbly and lovingly pray for those who are against us and or our Lord. I have found that many people are open to me praying for them. We should ask if we can pray for them more than we do.

Prayer can be a great tool to love on others and point them to Christ.

You know Jesus and they don’t. Praying for them is a great way to press their wyes to the truths of who God is and what he has done!

**How should we come to God in Prayer?**

**Reverent but bold:**

**Hebrews 4:16** So let us **come boldly** to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it.

**Honest:**

**In John 12:27-28 Jesus prays the following as he is preparing to be tortured on the cross and to take on the wrath we deserve…**

**John 12:27-28** “Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name.”…

**He says, “I am troubled!”**

**Do you know it is ok to be open and honest with God when you are struggling.**

In many ways it’s our constant submission to God in prayer that’s more important than what we are asking for! If we learn this we wouldn’t pray just when it gets to hard but when we begin, and during and after.

Finally, let’s consider the final area of prayer I recommend you to regularly practice & we see it in v10.

**4. YIELD**

**Matthew 6:10**Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

The 4th part of a balanced prayer life is: YIELDING PRAYER!

Yielding prayer is so essential because we need to recognize that God is ultimately in charge of all things and His will is good and perfect.

Ultimately, **Prayer is LESS about getting God to do what we want and more about getting ourselves reoriented to doing what God wants and has for us.**

It’s acknowledging that He is on the throne over all things. That we are dependent on him.

Let me say it again:

**Prayer is less about getting God to do what we want and more about preparing to join God in what he is going to do.**

**Think about that:**

**When you pray. Why you pray. Is often much more about pleading with God to do it your way. But oh, how we should be far more motivated to pray so that we are joining God in what he is doing or not doing.**

Prayer is our opportunity to recognize **God is in control.**

Submitting to that control is to **ask for things** with the understanding and peace that the outcome is His to decide and ultimately what he decides is what is best for his Glory and our Joy!

\***We need to remember that God’s will is not always our will.**

When we pray for God’s will to be done, we shouldn’t be trying to manipulate God into rubber-stamping what we have already decided to do.

Jesus says,

**Matthew 6:10**Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

**Stop for a second and just think about what Jesus is thinking about as he says Your kingdom come!**

IN Christ.. we are residents in God’s eternal heavenly Kingdom. We live for a New KING!

What this means is**:**

**We make kingdom decisions and have kingdom desires.**

**We have Eternal Eyes for things in instead of Temporary eyes.**

**What does YIELDING prayer look like as Kingdom Citizens?**

Yielding prayer is done in faith in God. We TRUST His way and will are better than ours.

We trust that he is at work even when it is really hard. We yield ourselves, our situation our loved ones to Him!

🡪The Question is… **Do you truly Want what God Wants. Or are you just saying that?**

**Jennifer and my testimony of the Interim time and the preaching pastor search.**

True yielding prayer helps us to pray differently than we tend to in our flesh.

It helps us to better submit to the Spirit.

Yielding prayer helps us to correct some of the ways we can pray that are to focused on us and or that do not reflect who God is or how he works!!

My prayer today is that our Hearts affections are ultimately satisfied in God & not God’s Creation.

**When this is the case, We will pray yielding Prayers.**

Beloved Disciples Family:

God has given us prayer to help us be contestably thankful to him, repentant of our sin, honest and open with what’s on our hearts and to practice yielding to His perfect will!!

This is why PRAISE, REPENT, ASK and YIELD are so helpful as the 4 main markers of a balances prayer life!!

 **Are you Ready?** This is real easy. **It is the word: PRAY.**

1. **P raise**

2. **R epent**

3. **A sk**

4. **Y ield**

Closing comments: