



New Testament Prayer

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Prayer is Communication

- ◆ *Sometimes prayer is as simple as a transaction between a two year old and his father and at other times it as complex as anything known to man. I love it when it's simple, but I grow when it's complexities go beyond my understanding.*

Prayer Challenges

- ◆ *I have found upon close inspection, that some of the things the scriptures say about prayer are challenging to me.*
 - *Praying in Jesus' name.*
 - *Praying for our enemies.*
 - *The tension between God already knowing what we need before we ask, and persisting in prayer.*
 - *Why do we sometimes not receive?*
 - *Prayer as a last resort.*
 - *Vain repetition, what is it?*

Praying in Jesus' name...

- ◆ *John 14:13-14 You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, because the work of the Son brings glory to the Father. 14 Yes, ask anything in my name, and I will do it! NLT*
- ◆ *This of course, begs the question of "how do I pray in Jesus' name?"*
- ◆ *I am certain of (2) things in this regard It is more than words I tack on to the end of a prayer and less than a lengthy prescription.*

Praying in Jesus' name...

- ◆ *To pray in Jesus' name is to pray for the things that He would pray for and for the same reason he would pray for them.*
- ◆ *John 15:7-8 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. NKJV*
- ◆ *Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart. (Psalm 37:4)*

Praying in Jesus' name...

- ◆ *Praying with a pure heart.*
- ◆ *Praying for the things that glorify God.*
- ◆ *Praying with confidence.*
- ◆ *Praying with a knowledge of what Jesus wants because we have been close to Him.*

Praying for those who use and persecute us

- ◆ *Matt 5:44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, **and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,** NKJV*
- ◆ *Jesus set the example for us ...Luke 23:34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive these people, because they don't know what they are doing."NLT*

Praying for those who use and persecute us

- ◆ *If we take seriously Jesus' command to pray for those who spitefully use us, what results might one expect?*
 - *In those who use us?*
 - *In us?*

He already knows VS. persisting in prayer.

- ◆ *Matt 6:8 "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. NKJV*
- ◆ *Luke 18:6 Then the Lord said, "Learn a lesson from this evil judge. 7 Even he rendered a just decision in the end, so don't you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who plead with him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? NLT*

He already knows VS. persisting in prayer.

- ◆ *So where is the balance between knowing that He already knows and persisting in prayer?*
 - *Sometimes we need to lay it down and believe that it will be done.*
 - *Sometimes we need to stay at the throne and continue to ask.*
 - *Sometimes we need to cease asking because God has something greater in mind.*

Why do we sometimes not receive?

- ◆ *Luke 11:9 "And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will be given what you ask for. Keep on looking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened. 10 For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And the door is opened to everyone who knocks. NLT*
- ◆ *James 4:2b And yet the reason you don't have what you want is that you don't ask God for it. 3 And even when you do ask, you don't get it because your whole motive is wrong — you want only what will give you pleasure. NLT*

Prayer is not to be our last resort.

- ◆ *How many times have we said 'all we can do is pray'?*
- ◆ *Why is prayer our last resort when it should really be our first response?*
- ◆ *A balancing truth is that we should not expect God to do for us what we are able to do ourselves.*
- ◆ *Luke 18:1 One day Jesus told his disciples a story to illustrate their need for constant prayer and to show them that they must never give up. NLT*

Vain Repetition ...

- ◆ *What are we cautioned against?*
- ◆ *Matt 6:7) And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. NKJV*

Vain Repetition ...

- ◆ *Not all repetition is vain*
- ◆ *Matt 26:44 So he went back to pray a third time, saying the same things again. NLT (Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane)*
- ◆ *It is in no way improper to ask for the same things repeatedly. In fact, that shows our passion and our commitment to what we are asking for.*

Vain Repetition ...

- ◆ *The warning is against seemingly magic formulas and/or certain words that purport to have persuasive power with God.*
- ◆ *God does not respond to our grammar; He responds to our heart.*

Prayer Challenges – What do you think?

- ◆ *Praying in Jesus' name.*
- ◆ *Praying for those who use us.*
- ◆ *Persisting in prayer.*
- ◆ *Why we do not always receive.*
- ◆ *Prayer is not to be our last resort.*
- ◆ *Vain repetition.*