

## It's Not About Prayer: "HOW do we pray?"

(John 14:12-14)

(It's not about prayer=Jesus; Helplessness; Child-likeness; **HOW do we pray?**

**Underwater helmet diving (oxygen lifeline) =Not a luxury. It's a necessity. Lifeline!!**

**Prayer is the lifeline of our soul to God.** Without prayer (like O<sub>2</sub>), our soul withers and dies. Our mind turns inwards and rebels. Our vision is clouded and sees only self. Our heart grows cold and weakens. Without prayer, a Christian is only a shell of a person. Half-dead. **Flesh – WHY?** Bc we were created to live & function *in His presence*; to know Him, Love Him, and thrive in *His* purposes for our lives and this world! =when we don't, we have only self to live 4

\*How do we pray to know the Lord better? to bless Him, to enjoy Him, & accomplish what He wants to do *IN* us and through us? **Focus is on Relationship**; *but watch what else happens*

**MAIN POINT: The Purpose of prayer is that we would enjoy our daily relationship with God as Father, and God as Son, through the Spirit; yet, prayer is also the divine means & spiritual power to continue the spiritual ministry of building/edifying the Church and advancing the gospel to the world. Jesus modeled prayer in order to do Fathers' will & Father's work on this earth.**

Mk. 1:35 = "Jesus got up while still dark to get alone and pray."

Jesus modeled for all of us (as all-powerful Son of God), human=he needed prayer **for power!**

**READ John 14:12-14**

Truly, truly I say to you, the one who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and **greater works than these he will do**; because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> And whatever you ask in My name, this I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.

Jesus is explaining that Believers have an active role in advancing the Kingdom of God for the Father's glory. *If we spend time in His presence, we will learn to love what Jesus loves; & do what Jesus did (love/serve others);* As Jesus loved well (friends/enemies) & pursued effective life-changing ministry, **so** we are *also* called to be on mission with Jesus to continue what He began and what He is building until His return (**people; the church; disc.; reach. lost**)

- 1. Notice, Jesus assumes that Believers will be busy in the work of ministry that He started. Vs. 12: Truly, truly I say to you, the one who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also.** We are all called to be busy following Jesus' example of daily ministry to our own lives/hearts; our family; our local church; & our community (lost/hurting)  
**-What ministry are you currently engaged in? Using your Spiritual gifts in local ch?**
- 2. Notice also that the spiritual work that we are called to will be global. [now, where is global? It's doing ministry where you live in your context, with an eye toward loving those outside of your immediate area]. Vs. 12: and greater works than these he will do; because I am going to the Father.** Our ministry is NOT better than Jesus' (remember, we can do NOTHING without Him anyway -**Jn 15:5**); the ministry Jesus refers to is not better qualitatively (i.e. not better quality...as if we could ever "outdo" Jesus), but rather better quantitatively (the extent & reach of the gospel ministry would eventually go much further than the confines of Israel). **The gospel is a global gospel for ALL people! Jesus ascended; the Spirit descended; WE are filled w/ His Spirit =presence/power=get busy**  
Thus, **in our praying**, we are in-tune with Jesus=His presence, His heart, & His purposes for the gospel in you AND *through* your life and love for the Lord: (**LOVE=Obedience** -Jn14).

3. Notice last, that Jesus teaches us the prayer that He wants to bless & answer =the prayer in HIS Name. **Vs. 13: And whatever you ask in My name, this I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.** Notice this: Jesus wants to answer our prayers that will glorify the Father. **It's ALL about God's glory!!!** There is NO other Being in the universe worthy of all our praise, worship, & GLORY! =God alone. So, Jesus (as God the SON), wants God the Father to be glorified. This is His aim and function as the Son. (Economic Trinity)

**A. So, the prayer that Jesus will always answer is the one that will glorify the Father most. WHY? Because...**

-The prayer of Jesus is to honor & glorify the Father. = *Our prayers should be as well.*

-**John 17:1-3** "Jesus spoke these things; and raising His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, **so that the Son may glorify You,** <sup>2</sup> just as You gave Him authority over all mankind, so that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. <sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they may know You (The Father), the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

-The **ministry** of Jesus is to honor & glorify the Father; =*Our's should be as well!!*

-The prayer that Jesus will bless/answer is a prayer that is oriented to honor the Father. This is praying God's will for your life and your ministry: \*-1 John 5:14 "**This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.**" (God's will is that we live out His WORD in obedience bc of our love for Him; thus, **we are to pray God's WORD** for our lives & our ministry); in praying Scripture, we glorify the Father!

=this looks very different than our typical weak, shallow, or self-centered prayers. **Heal/wealt**

\*Our prayers can be very simple=*supposed to be childlike*, helpless!! **NOT complicated/wordy**

-However, in our simplicity & dependence on the Lord, we are called *to orient our hearts, our needs, & requests (prayers) for God's glory first and most!!* **Vs. ours, self-centered, self-focused**

**\*This should teach us to learn to pray what would glorify the Father most? =HOW???**

=Watch what Jesus did; = He modeled this for us (humble, needy, often, as a child to His Father) "**Our Father**"; so, repeat this; make your life an exemplar of how Jesus lived His life!

The Spirit lives to help us grow into *His* image every day (sanctification)=**our goal is sp. growth**

**\*As we read Scripture, meditate on Scripture, and PRAY Scripture = we learn** what glorifies the Father. We learn where our place is (dependent); where our power comes from

-**What are you praying about daily? R U asking God to change your circumstances?**

**OR asking Him to change you/grow you through your challenging circumstances??**

-**RATHER, how about beginning to ask the Lord what would glorify the Father most in**

**your circumstances? As you read Scripture, ask the Lord how to apply Scripture to your life in a way that He is most glorified. ASK Him to teach you to pray WORD. Ask Spirit help**

**B. The prayer that Jesus will always answer is the one that will glorify the Father most which is asked in Jesus' Name. In HIS NAME!! WHY?? (not a formula; **but there is power**)**

=Because Jesus is our **mediator** between our sinfulness, brokenness, unrighteousness and God's Holy presence – we approach God's holy presence **through** the Son:

-Hebrews 4:14-16: "Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed **through the heavens**, Jesus the Son of God, let's hold firmly to our confession. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things just as *we are*, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Therefore let's approach the

throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace for help at the time of *our* need."

-Eph. 3:12 "we have boldness & access to the Father w confidence *through* our faith in him"

-Jesus taught His disciples to Pray to the Father in HIS Name: (Jn 14:13-14; 15:16; 16:23-24).

-Paul teaches this: E. 5:20 "give thanks to God the Father *in the name* of our Lord Jesus Christ"

-Praying in Jesus' Name means praying with His **AUTHORITY**: He brings us into the Father's presence (**Hall pass**); it means we are invoking the Son's **WILL** to glorify the Father in what we ask; and that we are appealing to His resurrection **POWER** to accomplish supernatural NEEDS. Jesus is our mediator to enter heaven's presence & accomplish the Father's sovereign purposes for our lives & those around us. =produces praying w/ Joy & Confidence

"Our praying needs to be pressed and pursued with an energy that never tires, a persistency which will not be denied, and a courage that never fails." – E.M. Bounds

## APPLICATION

- What is your Prayer strategy? Time; place; Plan – (**Praise; Repentance; Ask; Yield/will**)
- When do you have dedicated time to pray? To listen? To Read Scripture & Pray it back?
- When was the last time you recorded/journaled an answer to prayer?
- What are you praying about? Your will, your wants OR what God wants? His glory?
- Evangelistic Praying (who are you praying for to be saved? Lives changed?)
- ARE you a part of someone else's answer to prayer? As they beg God for help? -Are you that answer from God to them?
- **Could you be the answer to your own prayer??**