

New Believer Lesson- Learning to Pray the Way God Intended

What is prayer- What does it do for us and why does God insist on asking us to pray?

Prayer is a simple one on one communication with the Lord in Heaven and is our means of Intimacy with him in a busy noisy world.

Without prayer there is no direction, discernment, or often times the peace that passes our understanding **Phil 4:7**

Why did Jesus the **Second Person of the Trinity** consider it important to pray?

1. He still was a man, and needed that valuable communication and strength he attained when he prayed. **Luke 6:12, Mark 1:35**
2. He was totally dependent on the Father. If he wanted to overcome the Father was his connection. **Matthew 26:41**
3. Jesus knew that prayer was a two way journey, often he went to a solitary place to wait on God. **Isaiah 40:31** "Those that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength"...NIV

The Road to Prayer

One major form that a lot of people use today in learning a disciplined prayer life is the A.C.T.S road. Here are what each Letter means and how we can apply them to our lives:

1. "A" - **Stands for Adoration** - One must learn to sing praise to God whether it be in times of prayer or daily devotions and we must be sure to Adore and admire all that the Lord has done for us.
It's vital that we sing to the Lord with all our hearts making music in our hearts.

Revelation 7:9, 14:7 says "all heaven and earth worshipped God together"...NIV

- If we adore him it sets the tone and mood for our private time with him and it gives us a place to start in prayer with him
- Adoring him reminds us of who we are and whom we are worshipping. **Revelation 4:1-11**
- It purifies us as we pray bringing us directly into the "Holy of Holies" and it opens us up so everything is laid bare before the one we are worshipping. This is called submission, yieldedness
- God is worthy of our praise and demands His creation to worship Him (the Creator) for that is why we were created. **Revelation 5:13-14**

2. "C" - **Stand for Confession-** Confession is another necessary discipline in the Christian Life. It's simply agreeing with God that we have sin and it needs to be confessed.
It's learning to find regular times when we confess our sins, not those to Re-gain salvation but a daily confession that keeps our relationship clean and clear from unconfessed sins.

- Confession brings a cleansed conscience
- It is not repentance. Confession is part of Repentance. In confession you are listening, admitting and agreeing with God that our sin separates us from Him- **Isaiah 59:2 Romans 3:23**
- A third benefit to confession in prayer is that in true confession you feel free and open to pray and more readily and so you can be confident that God the Holy Spirit hears and answers.
- It helps us to get in a routine of quickly ridding our lives of the junk and Unforgiveness that builds up
- It teaches us intimacy with God we so desperately need. The ultimate goal of intimacy with God is learning how spend time in his presence and learning to hear that Voice speaking to us.

"T"- Stands for Thanksgiving- Psalm 103:2 I Thessalonians 5:18.

- As Christians we must get into a daily habit of thanking God for everything he gives us. Many of us may be grateful to God and may not be truly thankful. There is a vast difference between the two. You can be grateful but without expressing it does not do a thing for you or God. We must express our love and thankfulness to God for all he does and all he has done.
- God desires that we verbally express in words our daily thanksgivings to him for all the great blessings He gives us. In particular answered prayers.

"S"- Stands for Supplications and Petitions- (Requests)

Supplications are made on behalf of another person as in intercession. Petitions are the actual request made!

- In **Philippians 4:6** the Bible says "in everything by prayer petition and with thanksgiving present your requests to Go" ...NIV This is our opportunity to go to God with the needs of others, and to ask him with confidence for our own needs.
- Remember nothing is too small or too big for God handle. The Bible says that he is able and we are told to cast our cares and anxieties on him **I Peter 5:7**.
- If you struggle to categorize your requests simply make a list and use it for a while and refer to it Regularly. No request is beyond God's ability to answer.

Practicing the Presence of God

There are some important Points about learning to pray in God's Presence you should know:

- Pray aloud- it creates more of an environment to believe
- Write out requests - it forces you to refer to a list and act
- Practice makes perfect- just keep doing it and you will grow

Someone has said- "Without Confinement in prayer there is no power of the Spirit".

Remember:

Attend all the prayer meetings you can and learn from others...this is vital as you follow Christ

Questions:

1. Did you learn from these principles? Yes or No?
2. If yes, what can you put into practice that will help you in your personal prayer life?
3. How often do you totally get alone with God and practice waiting to hear him speak without speaking? **Psalm 46:10**, "Be still and know he is God"

Remember: prayer is our lifeline to God in Heaven, so if we do all the talking how can we be practicing listening to hear his voice?

4. If you are not practicing any of these principles how are you communicating with God? How are growing in your prayer life?

Practicing the Presence

What is praying in God's presence then? Is this any different than praying other ways!!

Someone has said praying in God's Presence can be defined as:

"Awareness of God comes as a result of taking time to pray spend time with him recognizing we are Communing with God and sense the Holy Spirit speaking to our hearts".

Understanding God's Presence in the Old and New Testament

1. In the Book of **Exodus 13:21** it states that the people of God knew they were in the Presence of God by two signs God gave them to confirm it:

- A. The pillar of Cloud by day
- B. The pillar of Fire by night

In this way if the nation was afraid of wild animals or their enemies since they were in the desert God's elements of his presence were always there for them to see and look at!

2. In the New Testament **Matthew 1:23** says "the virgin will be with child and she will give birth to a Son and they will call him Emmanuel!"

- a. In the New Testament God's presence was forecasted through the prophets who told us one would come to us in the flesh... God's Son
- b. Emmanuel- meant "God with us" or in the flesh literally. **(John 1:14)**
- c. It is always life changing activity when we come into contact with the Son and in God's presence. **Acts 4:13** ordinary people displayed miraculous wisdom and words
- d. The day of Pentecost was the sending of the Holy Spirit to all on earth **Acts 1:8**. From that day on the promise was that he would "Abide with us" and live with us forever. **John 14:25**

Why we lack his Presence:

1. **Prayerlessness**- we just don't spend time praying and practicing his presence- **James 4:2**
2. **Unconfessed Sin** - Sin no matter how insignificant even a speck separates us from God -**Isaiah 59:2**
3. **Unresolved Relational Conflict**- Bad relationships damage our ability to enter into Gods Presence
It prevents us from getting close to God and has to be corrected to do so
4. **Selfishness**- Often we are wrapped up in ourselves, forgetting the great sacrifice that we are called to
Luke 9:23
5. **Uncaring Attitudes**- How do we act when things do not go the way we like them. **Phil 2:5, Eph 4:23**
6. **Inadequate Faith**- Do we really believe that God is able to do what he says he can? **Heb 11:2**

When we are in God's presence we are communing with God and his Spirit. In that place all our thoughts emotions and feelings are transformed with his awesome love into something new. All our words, bad thoughts deeds and sins are also exposed and laid bare before him. He takes away all that is unfruitful and places newness and revitalizes us building us up in the Spirit as we Wait - **Isaiah 40:31**

Bill Hybels said this:

"Power comes out of the stillness, strength comes out of the solitude, while decisions that change the entire course of your life come out of the Holy of Holies..."

Being in His presence makes our spiritual inheritance real and more understandable. The presence of God comes to us as we learn to wait, learning to put the Hustle and Bustle of life behind leaning only on God for all your direction, peace and help. Also our obedience is closely tied to that place of solitude and surrender. It can be hard to give up anger, hate or sins of the flesh we battle with but in that quiet place God deepens our commitment as we wait and often sets us free from those things.

Remember:

If only the church would realize that all our power, resources and influence come from waiting upon the Lord. If we really desired revival in our heart, we must discipline ourselves to wait on God in that Secret place.

Our victory is assured: **1 Samuel 26:23, Heb 11:6 1 Cor. 3:8**

God's Presence changes us, transforms us, corrects us and teaches us to practice what we preach.

1. **God's presence - brings his companionship and fellowship to us- we may need comfort in a painful moment and God will bring the comfort we need!**
2. **It brings supernatural confidence- without this often there is no continued obedience**
3. **His presence brings an increased compassion for others to be saved so they may be transformed into the heavenly kingdom of Christ**
4. **His presence helps us feel his love that sometimes may feel so far off.**

Remember: it's vital that we listen to God when he speaks to our hearts about prayer and Intercession, most often he has a blessing for us if we obey quickly.

Solitude breeds strength a secret the church needs to learn.

One of the greatest agenda's Christ held was a strong prayer life.

If Christ thought it vital to pray how much more do we need to wait upon the Lord to learn the next step God has for us.

Waiting- should there is a time limit?

It makes all the difference to learn to pray. But waiting is another thing. Learning to wait upon the Lord is a vital practice that cannot be overstated? We must learn to wait in prayer.

But what are we waiting for?

Simply rushing into God's presence with a bucket list of requests and leaving is not prayer!

Developing intimate times of prayer is important. But we must not put a limit on how much time it takes. Coming into God's very presence can be started many ways.

Perhaps it may mean starting with the Word or a request but in the end it will mean remembering his promises and applying them in that secret peaceful place, in his presence.

Here are some promises for those prayer times:

Psalm 50:15,

Job 22:27

Prov. 16:3

Matt. 7:7-8

Eph. 6:18

1 Thess. 5:17

James 5:16

This is the end of the New Believer Lessons Series- supplied by Souls for Christ Ministries

To study further check out our Pentecostal Doctrine Series

Enjoy!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!