



Midweek Bible Study: Wednesday, October 9, 2019

Series Entitled: "Prayer Works"  
Tonight's Subject: "Principles of Prayer"

- A Major Shift Focus is going to happen in our prayer lives at Connect Church and in the Body of Christ!
- We collectively have to PRAY through things even more than we have to PLAN through things!

**Principles of Prayer:**

- A principle is a comprehensive and fundamental law; a rule or code of conduct.
- Principles of Prayer are the things that lay a foundation for which our prayers are resting on biblically.
- Prayer is one of the most important parts of our daily walk with God.
- Our Focus will be on the biblical principles that Jesus taught in Matthew 6 and Matthew 7.

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**Principle #1 - Don't Pray to be Seen:**

- Matthew 6:5-8 (NASB)

**5 "When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.**

**6 But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you.**

**7 "And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words.**

**8 So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him."**

- Jesus went on to teach that we should not pray like the hypocrites (wanting to be seen; and wanting others to think that we are really spiritual and prayer warriors.)
- God is very clear that He is watching what we are doing in secret. (The Real You!)

- God’s message is very clear; Don’t pray to be seen and to get accolades from others. Matthew 6:5 “..... Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.” – which means if that is the real reason that you are praying, that is the only (Full) reward you will get (accolades from others).
  - NEWS FLASH: Our private prayer time is really the place where we are going to grow spiritually. This is the place where we learn to talk to God, have sweet fellowship with God and have sweet communion with God. We encourage you to maintain a regular and consistent time to be alone with God without all the distractions of life!
  - Jesus also encouraged us in this text not to be like the Gentiles; The NLT says “When you pray, don’t babble on and on ....” – which means to continue to use the same words over and over and over again! (NOTE: Prayer is a conversation with God, not a poem recited over & over.)
  - Verse 8: The Father knows what we are in need of even before we ask, but God still wants us to ask for our needs.
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## Principle #2 - Principles in The Lord’s Prayer

- Matthew 6:9-13 (NASB)

**“Pray, then, in this way:**

**‘Our Father who is in heaven,**

**Hallowed be Your name.**

**<sup>10</sup>‘Your kingdom come.**

**Your will be done,**

**On earth as it is in heaven.**

**<sup>11</sup>‘Give us this day our daily bread.**

**<sup>12</sup>‘And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.**

**<sup>13</sup>‘And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”**

- NOTE: This is the prayer Jesus gave His disciples when they asked Christ to teach them to pray.
  - “Our Father” represents that A Child of God can call on His Spiritual Father who is in heaven looking down on His children.
  - The term “Father” is for the children who have accepted Our God as their Heavenly creator.
  - “Hallowed be Your name” – We must come to God first with a spiritual mindset of Praise & Worship. – Seeking to get in His presence before we seek to get something out of His Hand!
  - **“Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven” – Principle to Learn – We must put the Kingdom of God first in our lives even before we put ourselves first. (Your Will God; Not Mine – Daily decision.)**
  - **Matthew 6:33 – “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”**
  - We can seek the Lord first in all we do based on His Word: (Matt 6:25,27 & 1 Peter 5:7)
    - Matthew 6:25,27 (NASB)
      - <sup>25</sup> “For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, *as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?*”
      - <sup>27</sup> “And who of you by being worried can add a *single* hour to his life?”
    - 1 Peter 5:7 (NASB)
      - <sup>7</sup> “casting all your anxiety (cares) on Him, because He cares for you.”
    - Matthew 6:31-32 (NASB)
      - <sup>31</sup> Do not worry then, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing?’
      - <sup>32</sup> For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.”
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- **Principle #3 - Unforgiveness Hinders Your Prayer**
  - Mathew 6:14-15 (NASB)
    - <sup>14</sup> For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.
    - <sup>15</sup> But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.
- Prayer will not work in an unforgiving heart
- We cannot hold things against people in our heart and have a successful prayer life and get results.

- We don't need anything in our lives that is going to hinder our prayer life; we need to release what we are holding on to and receive all God has in store for us!
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- **Principle #4 - Ask and You Shall Receive**

- Matthew 7:7-11 (NASB)

<sup>7</sup>“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

<sup>8</sup>For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

<sup>9</sup>Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf, will give him a stone?

<sup>10</sup>Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he?

<sup>11</sup>If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!

- History of the text – In Israel, the people understood in their minds that the minute one asked, you received your answer.
- Some areas in the East still have these same customs that they had thousands of years ago.
- This came from people visiting others back then and the servants would go out to the outer court and if the visitor was known they would get direct access. If they did not recognize them, they would call back to the master and ask if he wanted to let them in.
- The connecting thought is when you knock, if you were known, then thank God because you would get immediate entrance.
- As children of God, when we ask, we are given; when we seek, we find; when we knock, the door is immediately opened!

- Luke 11:11-13 (NASB)

<sup>11</sup>Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he?

<sup>12</sup>Or if he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he?

<sup>13</sup>If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?”

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