

Prayer is something for many people that isn't important...until it IS important...then it's VERY IMPORTANT
We saw that lived out this past week on the pro football field with Damar Hamlin: You probably heard story HIT
When this happened: Pray For Hamlin became one of if not the greatest trending topic on Twitter

- PICTURE

Most of those praying do not have prayer as an integral part of their daily life...Moment and Need Captured them
Now, I don't say that as a judgmental thing...because I am convinced that the biggest lie told in church every
time we get together is, "I'll pray for you!" We say that...and in fact we MEAN it...but then life happens...Forget.

Today I want to talk with you about Prayer...Prayer the way Jesus TAUGHT it...not the way we often DO it! If you
have your bibles turn with me to Matt 6, and let's look together at how Jesus taught His disciples to pray: Jn 11
Matt 6:5-8

1. Jesus ASSUMES Three Things About Prayer!

All three of these are both ASSUMED...foundationally integral to what Jesus is saying, AND Specifically TAUGHT

- Jesus ASSUMES you WILL pray! 3x: WHEN YOU PRAY! vs 5, vs 6, vs 7
- Jesus KNOWS we will be tempted to pray to/for people...rather than God! vs 5-8 Don't be like THEM!
- Jesus TEACHES us that prayer can be LEARNED: It is a learned Skill: Jn 11:1-13
Disciples asked: Lord, TEACH us to pray: Notice Jesus didn't say: NO WAY..GOT IT OR YOU DON'T!
Illus: Prayer is just like everything else in life: 1st time...Feel uncomfortable. More do it...better become

2. Jesus MODELS Three Reasons Why We Need To Pray.

All through Jesus ministry you see Him teaching the disciples and others HOW and WHY to pray. He is modeling
for us what we need to know so that we can get it right. A disciple is a "follower" Walks in footsteps of master.
Jesus during His ministry over and over shows us where we should be "putting our feet" in prayer!

- Illus: Every watched a child follow their parent through snow...or sand? Putting their feet on footprints!
That is what Jesus is doing for the disciples. "STEP HERE!" "SAY IT THIS WAY" "FOLLOW ME!"

3 Reasons We Pray

- We Pray To Express Our Needs to God: Jn 11:9-10 Ask and it will be given...Seek...Knock!
Vs If God knows before you Ask...WHY? Two things Happen
1. Reminds you WHERE answer comes from
2. Helps you know when you're being ridiculous (2 bill lotto)
Illus: James 4:1-3 *Pray and don't receive: Wrong Motives!*
Mt 11:28-30 "*Come unto me all you who weary & burdened*
Listen: Some things you are not MEANT to carry!
Illus: Not sure what issue was: 3am...Gave it to Him!
Psm 55:22 Cast burdens on him and he will sustain you!
- We Pray To Cast Our Cares On Him!
Luke 4:38ff Peter's Mother in Law HUGE CROWD
Vs 42: Went to pray: Let's Go "*That is why I have come*"
We find God's direction in PRAYER!
Often direction comes from everywhere else: Others/Events
- We Pray To Ask For Direction In Life:

3. Jesus TEACHES Us How To Pray.

Ch 6:9-15

We commonly call this the "Lord's Prayer" and in one sense it is because Jesus is teaching the disciples to pray.
In reality though I think this should be called the "Disciples Prayer" because that is what Jesus intended it for.
It's intended to teach us how to pray as His followers. Jesus prayer FOR US...John 15 is really Lord's Prayer.

There is a LOT in these few verses, more in fact than we would ever be able to cover. So here is what I want to
do. I'm going to use an acrostic that will help us hit the highlights, and give us insight into the key elements.

P.R.A.I.S.E.S

- P= Prayer should be PERSONAL! Difference between what you see in the OT and the NT
In the OT, when the Prophets prayed, they would regularly address God as King, Lord of Heaven & Earth
When Jesus prays, EVERY SINGLE TIME WE SEE HIM ADDRESS GOD DIRECTLY: HE PRAYS: FATHER!
Over and over when He teaches us about prayer, Jesus reminds us: You are talking with your FATHER!
OT: When the priests when into the Holy of Holies to serve, All kinds of preparation: BELLS/ROPE
NT: Jn 11:11 (Other place Jesus teaches this) Heavenly Father Heb: 4:16 Go BOLDLY!
Illus: When you pray, you don't have to be all holy! Respectful YES, God dwells in eternal light...NO!
- Prayer Should be REPENTANT! Repentant: Lit = to say sorry and change direction!
"*Forgive us our debts...as we forgive our debtors*" Or *forgive our sins as we forgive those sin against us*
Listen: God isn't surprised by your sin! He isn't caught off guard. He isn't going to strike you dead!
You can TELL Him what you are doing...Where you have fallen, What You have done...ask forgiveness
Illus: We all have STUFF! Is there anyone in here today that walked in with NO STUFF! (SIN)
There are two kinds of Christians. Those who sin and acknowledge it...Sin and lie about it!
PSM 51: Be SPECIFIC...Not just...Oh I did some bad things! I yelled at my kids and I drop kicked dog!

A= Prayer Should Include ASKING For What You Need! Give us this day our daily bread!
Now...that shouldn't be ALL that you ask for...And like James says, we need to ask for right things, BUT
It is OK to say to your Father, **THIS IS THE DESIRE OF MY HEART!**

Illus: Just keep in mind, in the same way your children sometimes ask you for things you KNOW aren't right
We do that with God. And when we ask incorrectly, He isn't going to give you something that's wrong.
Remember what Jesus actually said: *Give us today our daily bread.* The 2 billion lotto...not daily!

Illus: God continues to do with you and I what He did with the Children of Israel in Wilderness. Gives us DAILY
Seldom if ever does He give us more than we need for TODAY! Just In Time Fulfillment: Ford/Toyota
Honestly, some of our frustration with God comes from this misunderstanding: We want Tomorrow/Today

I= Intentional: Vs 7-8: Don't just say the words...babbling without understanding and engagement! PRAY
Engage your heart with the heart of your heavenly Father. Let the desires of your heart be expressed.

Illus: Darlene and I pray nightly for a number of things in our family and church: Convicted...Tired...ROTE
Now I know it is difficult when there is something you have been praying for a long time.
Maybe it's for child or spouse know Jesus, Maybe a difficult sin you need to beat...NO EMPTY WORDS!
How many times have you heard someone pray for Offering...*Bless Gift Giver Meal: Hands prepared it!*

S= Specific: Be Specific In Your Prayers: Don't pray in generalities...Pray Specifically what God puts on heart
Jesus says in vs 10: YOUR WILL BE DONE: You are like Pastor, That's why I'm praying...Don't Know it!
Well in some instances that is true. There are some specifics that you do not know:

Illus: The name Darlene not in Bible! I looked...No where does it say...Marry Darlene Thomas!

But...there are some very specific things: Unequally Yoked: Believer: Helpmeet: For ministry:
I believe this so profoundly...When I asked: Ever think what like married to Pastor: Answer No...

That said: There ARE some very clear things that ARE Specific that you can pray in the will of God FOR!

- *Believe in Jesus Christ* (John 6:40) *"My fathers will everyone that looks to the Son and believes in Him"*
(2Peter 3:9) *"God is not willing that any should perish all come to eternal life"*

When you PRAY for someone to come to Christ...praying in His will! NOT OVERRULE

- *Be Sanctified* (1 Thessalonians 4:3) *"It is God's will that you should be sanctified"*

To be made pure/Holy: Overcome sin in your life...

When you are praying: "God, please help me overcome this sin!" IN HIS WILL!

- *Give Thanks in Everything* (1 Thessalonians 5:18) Give thanks in ALL Circumstances
Not FOR...But IN. God is Allowing it for your Good...For others Good..His Glory!
It may be painful: Hurt: Not understand...But you CAN TRUST! It comes from loving Father
If you will TRUST...PRAY...GROW...LOOK...WAIT...OFFER IT TO HIM! USE IT FOR GOOD!

- *Submit in Doing Right* (1 Peter 2:13-15) Submit to civil, legal and spiritual authorities! WILL OF GOD
You don't have to like it...Don't have to agree with it,: OBEY IT!
ONLY TIME YOU CAN DISOBEY AUTHORITY...IS WHEN IT SPECIFICALLY REQUIRES YOU
TO DISOBEY THE EXPLICIT WORD OF GOD: LIE ON YOUR RESUME. NO

Illus: Keep something in mind here: The "authority" Peter is referencing: Roman Emperor!

E= Empire: Pray For God's "Empire" or God's Kingdom to Come. Pray for Churches...and Ministry!

The Church is the hope of the world! No Education, No Government, No Business, No Sport Change World
Our world can look like it is hopeless at times, but it isn't. God is still on His Throne, and ultimately His will is
going to prevail. Here is the key component. when we are praying for God's Kingdom, we are NOT praying
for ours! All too often when we pray we are praying, *"God give me what I want, Give me the success I desire,
give me the physical things I crave, give me the people in my life that I want.* Instead we should be praying,
God, you know what is best. You know what I need. These are my desires, this is what I see...but God...what
I want more than MY WILL is YOUR WILL! When we are praying THAT way we are praying for God's Kingdom

S= Shield: Shield Me And Protect Me From Evil. Vs 13 *Lead us not into temptation, deliver us evil one*
Rick Warren used to say it this way. You aren't being paranoid if they REALLY are out to get you. And, as a
disciple of Jesus Christ, Satan "is like a roaring lion seeking who he may devour!" He wants to destroy you and
everything you have! Don't be confused...Don't be mistaken...Don't let your guard down. Pray EVERY Day,
SHIELD ME God from the Evil One. Shield me from those that would lead me wrong path. Keep me close to YOU

CONCL: Today, I challenge you To Do A Couple of Things

1. WHEN you pray...Pray the Way Jesus Taught: Do away with your rote prayers...Pray from the heart
2. Plan Today to join your Church family in they 24 Hour Day of Prayer: Sign Up:
3. Be Here Jan 29 Special Service: Family Service, Kids join us: LET YOUR CHILDREN SEE YOU PRAY!
4. Plan to make all 4 of these services...
5. If you need someone to pray with you today...Prayer Tent