

THE LORD'S MODEL PRAYER

--MATTHEW 6:5-15--

INTRODUCTION:

Several years ago, I read a book on prayer, and I want to share a quote from the opening chapter of this book by S. D. Gordon. He writes, "The greatest thing anyone can do for God and for man is pray. It is not the only thing. But it is the chief thing. A correct balancing of the possible powers one may exert puts it first. For if a man is to pray right, he must first *be* right in his motives and life. And if a man *be* right, and put the practice of praying in its right place, then serving and giving and speaking will be fairly fragrant with the presence of God." (Gordon, S. D., *Quiet Talks On Prayer*. New York, NY : Fleming H. Revell Company, 1904.) Mr. Gordon exerts that prayer is the most important thing that we can do. He says that the practice of praying if it is given the proper place in our life will bring every other part of our life into order under the authority of God and within His plan and purpose for our life. Every area of our life will display the presence of God.

Where do we start in making this the most important part of our life? A good start would be to look at the teaching of Jesus Christ on prayer. In the book of Luke, we are told that this teaching was the result of one of the disciples asking Jesus to teach them to pray.

I. PRAYER ATTITUDE (Matthew 6:5-6)

- a. Jesus begins His teaching on prayer by warning us not to be _____.
- b. Jesus describes praying hypocrites as those who _____ to make a show of their prayers.
- c. After instructing us how we are not to pray, Jesus then instructs how we are to _____ in verse six.
- d. Jesus teaches us that prayer is an intimate, private _____ between you and your heavenly Father.

II. PRAYER MUST BE SINCERE (Matthew 6:7-8)

- a. Jesus continues to teach us by giving us another example of how we are _____ to pray.

- b. Jesus instructs us that when we pray, we are not to use meaningless _____.
- c. Jesus is teaching that when we pray, we need to be _____.

III. PRAYER MODEL (Matthew 6:9-13)

- a. After teaching us how not to pray, Jesus then gives us a model prayer; a prayer that has all the _____ for us to use when we pray.
- b. He begins, "Our _____, who is in heaven..." (Matthew 6:9b, NASB95) teaching us to begin by addressing our prayer to our Father. (Galatians 4:4-7)
- c. "Hallowed be Your _____." (Matthew 6:9c, NASB95)
- d. Our first _____ concerns God's interests, God's purpose and plan.
- e. After looking to the interests of God, we may then turn our petitions to those _____ which we have ourselves.
- f. The next aspect in Jesus' model prayer is _____, seeking God's forgiveness for our sin. (Ephesians 4:32)
- g. This model prayer teaches us to end our prayer by asking for God's guidance and _____ spiritually. (James 1:13)
- h. "For Yours is the _____ and the power and the glory forever. Amen." (Matthew 6:13b, NASB95)

IV. PRAYER'S POWER (Matthew 6:14-15)

- a. Jesus ends His teaching on prayer by returning to His section on _____.
- b. What Jesus is teaching in these verses has to do with prayer and the _____ that is ours with God through prayer.

CONCLUSION:

In these verses Jesus teaches us how to pray. He teaches two ways we are not to pray. Then, He teaches how to pray using His model prayer. I came across an acrostic a few years back, and it follows quite

closely to the model of the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples. The acrostic is called the Acts of Prayer. The letters of ACTS stand for Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication. Begin your prayer with adoration or worship, then confess and ask forgiveness, then give thanks for God's goodness, faithfulness, and blessings; and finally bring your petitions and requests to your heavenly Father. Remember the words of James, "*The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.*" (James 5:16b, NASB95)