

“MAKING YOUR MINUTES COUNT”

Permission To Speak Freely, Part 2

August 1st, 2010

As Jesus taught His disciples how to pray, He said the place is important

You don't have to spend a lot of time telling God your needs because He already knows

Prayer is where God becomes our “Heavenly Father” & Christ our “personal savior” – we become personal & intimate

When you pray like Christ teaches, God will Reward you

The “reward” is an inner sense of peace that God is with you – always

Matthew 6:9 (NIV) “[Jesus said] ‘This, then, is how you should pray...’”

Jesus’ Critical Elements & Order of Prayer

1. Declare God's greatness

Matthew 6:9 (NIV) “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name,...”

Stay here long enough to recognize who it is you are talking to

The more I recognize who He is, the more confidence I have He is with me, and He can handle whatever I'm facing

2. Surrender your will to God

Matthew 6:9 (NIV) “...Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven...”

Point of prayer isn't to get stuff from God; it's to bring my life into alignment with His will, purposes, & agenda

As I surrender my will to His, at that intersection this is where life change happens

John 11:41-43 (NLT) “Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, ‘Father, thank You for hearing Me. You always hear Me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here, so they will believe You sent Me.’ Then Jesus shouted, ‘Lazarus, come out!’”

Luke 22:42-44 (NLT) “[Jesus prayed] ‘Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from Me. Yet I want Your will to be done, not mine.’... He prayed more fervently, and He was in such agony of spirit that His sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood.”

The length of our prayer isn't determined by the willingness of our God, it is determined by the condition of our hearts

3. Acknowledge your dependency on God
Matthew 6:11 (NIV) "Give us today our daily bread."

By asking we are showing our dependency on God

We are dependent on God for our needs

God reminds us whether we have a lot or a little, it all comes from Him

We are dependent on God for the forgiveness of our sins
Matthew 6:12 (NIV) "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."

We are dependent on God for our protection
Matthew 6:13 (NIV) "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

When you pray start with God, end with you, & in the middle is the issue – whose agenda will take priority

Surrendering our will isn't a one time decision; it comes up at each stage of our life

If this decision scares you, it means you are taking it seriously

Whatever you think you can withhold from God by a decision, you underestimate His power and ability. He can take it at will

The fact God hasn't taken it is evidence of His grace and patience with you. What God wants more than what's in your hand – He wants your heart

As you wrestle with surrendering various areas of your life to God, it's not just saying prayers anymore, now you're pursuing a Relationship

My Next Step Today Is:

- My prayer, "God, do what You need to do in me so I know how to pray."
- I will spend time this week using Jesus' pattern for prayer found in Matthew 6:9-13
- I plan to attend Class 101, Introduction to New Hope, on Sunday, August 8th at 1 PM
- I am interested in being baptized Sunday, Aug 15th at the church's beach/baptism