

Meeker Christian Church
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Prayer
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Everybody knows about it and talks about it, what is it? The weather of course, but could an answer also be prayer? The weather we have no control over, but prayer we do. Spiritually speaking, what transpires in our personal lives and in our church is 100% proportionate to the prayer earnestness of Christian disciples.

Today we are going to review some things about prayer as a reminder and encouragement for our daily kingdom walk.

Genesis 4:26 is the first mention of what is accepted as the first prayer in the Bible *26 And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then men began to call on the name of the Lord.* Adam was 130 years old when Seth was born according to Genesis 5:3 *And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.* So direct communication with God was established in the lives of earthlings with the earliest inhabitants of the creation. God deemed it important then, and its importance remains a consistent source of peace and counsel.

The last prayer of the Bible is not surprising to also be the final verse of the Bible; Revelation 22:21 *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.* That final instruction is God messaging humans that the contents of His divinely inspired Bible reveals how to accept the grace of salvation through Jesus and live accordingly on earth and all eternity.

It is already evident from these verses that prayer for a Christian is directly with Heavenly Father and is a unique provision He has given us for receiving and expressing love, gratitude and praise.

Prayer can rightly be characterized as the central position in life and worship with a growing relationship with God. Without prayer Christianity is mute and superfluous. For a Christian to pray is just as important as breathing, one for physical life sustenance, the other for spiritual life sustenance. As a reminder for all of us, God answers prayer in one of three ways: Yes – No – Later.

He alone is Sovereign and knows the end the same as the beginning and will answer according to His Divine purpose and His will for the praying individual. His Holy will to be done, is the intent of a Christians prayer even when not specifically mentioned as illustrated for us in the Model prayer of Matthew 6:10 *thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven!* When we learn to pray and are faithful in prayer then a divine serendipity is that we are also granted the peace and assurance to accept the answer and be even more aware of Bible study revelation, and other “doors He opens” for our thoughts, motivations, and Kingdom action and activity.

A great paradox are the persons who pray under stress, sorrow, illness or other things they cannot figure out or explain, but otherwise do not acknowledge the reality and Sovereign Authority of God. The answer is that Christians are given the understanding that creation and life reveal God and provide meaning for living and death. Innately everyone and everything within creation is sensible to that reality and will one day experience the truth. Albeit it may be too late.

Let's look in the gospel of John at some scriptures regarding prayer for application in our personal relationship with our Holy GOD, savior Messiah, and indwelling Holy Spirit. When we pray, we pray to the trinitarian Godhead, not the separate manifestations of that Godhead.

John 17 has been referred to as Christ's great high priestly prayer or most correctly, the Lord's Prayer. The prayer recorded in Matthew 6 and Luke 11 that has been affectionately known as the Lord's Prayer but in reality is really a Model Prayer because JESUS gave it to HIS disciples to illustrate how to pray. Please notice that distinction.

Here in John 17 the Apostle has recorded for us when the LORD JESUS HIMSELF prayed = the Lord's prayer: John 17:1-5 The first 5 verses show JESUS praying for HIMSELF, *Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, 2 as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. 3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. 4 I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. 5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.*

This example confirms the fulfillment of the salvation purpose of Jesus's life on earth, and His return to the heavenly realm. However fyi, it also reveals a point of interpretation contention in the Christian world: verse 2 that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. I have my opinion and perhaps you do as well as to who are the elect of God, those whom God has given!!!. For this ministry let it suffice to say that whatever opinion you hold, it is not a matter of salvation for the one expressing the opinion. And it is not a doctrine deserving of all the contention, and divisions associated with it.

Next we see in this Lord's prayer John 17:6-19 and Jesus praying for those Disciples who had been directly impacted by His earthly ministry. *6 "I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. {DISCIPLES} 7 Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. 8 For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. 9 "I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. 10 And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. 11 Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have*

given Me, that they may be one as We are. 12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. 13 But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. 14 I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. 18 As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. 19 An for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

This gives us a marvelous example of talking with our Heavenly Father, And Jesus' intent for his disciples, apostles, and all Christians. Make your own personal applications as you read and study it to help you grow in faith. The theological affirmations are repeated to show us that there is nothing too unimportant to talk to God about. And talk to Him like you would speak to your Father, a friend or loving spouse. Prayer is talking to a real person who really wants the best for you and is more than anxious to give you one of the three answers to your inquiry.

- Verse 11: it reminds us that God and Jesus are one and His goal for we believers is unity like them.
- Verse 12: another name and description of Judas,
- Verse 13: a purpose of Jesus that He wants and expects us to be filled with joy like Him. WOW!!!
- Verse 14 -15: Jesus prays for all believers to protected from the evil one... PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD.
- Verse 16: reminds us that when we accept Jesus as Lord, follow through with baptism and living in kingdom service we are no longer of this world, because we have inherited a place in eternity BUT just like Jesus and the disciples, and apostles---because we are no longer of this world-- we are assured to encounter opposition while dwelling in this foreign land.
- Verse 17: reminds us that God's word is truth and we pray celebrating that revealed truth in and radiating through us.

This prayer is an incredible illustration from the mouth of Jesus while on earth, of how we should be praying for each other and the ministry in which we are involved. Another serendipity for us in reading and studying these verses is the faith growth and righteous conviction the Holy Spirit imputes to us along with the knowledge, peace, and satisfaction that become a tool in our arsenal for kingdom service and utilizing our spiritual gifts according to His Will and divine purpose for and in our lives.

You are Sanctified, Holy, a Sacred tool and creation of the Heavenly Father for the purpose of being a living witness of being a Christian which by definition means "belonging to Christ.", and therein a warrior for His righteousness.

John 17: 20-26 In this Lord's Prayer we have experienced Jesus praying for Himself, His disciples and now very specifically He is praying for all Christians and listen carefully for that includes including you and me. 20 *"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: 23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. 24 "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. 25 O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. 26 And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."*

Jesus is praying for all Christian to be in tune with the mind of GOD for unity or oneness: Paul was inspired to explain it like this in Colossians 3:1-3 *If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*

The intensity of distress for mankind continues but there is a purpose, and a promise for all who will hear, believe, confess, repent and be baptized: Matthew: 10:32-33 *Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. 33 But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.*