

DAILY WILL ALIGNMENT

A good speaker knows how to communicate effectively, even with a limited amount of words. Jesus is the master teacher on prayer as evidenced by his comprehensive and succinct words of 'The Lord's Prayer.' Jesus knew that in order to live a fruitful life for God, we would need to get our priorities right on a daily basis. God's will and kingdom must come first. He wants us to think of heaven each day so that we do not become bogged down by our earthly life problems or become obsessed with the pleasures of this world.

Give us / God is the source of our daily provision.

Forgive us / God wants us to live daily in the freedom of pardon from God and release it toward others.

Lead us / God wants us to be led by His Spirit in every path of our life

Deliver us / God is the one who gives us protection and power to overcome evil.

I remember a time when I had the wheels of my car aligned in order to get maximum wear from my tires and give me a smoother ride. The very next day my car tire and suspension was jolted by a huge pothole in the road and the previous day's alignment was made useless. I was disgusted that I had to spend more money to get my wheels realigned. In addition, I had some angry thoughts toward the road department that should have filled such a large pothole in a more timely manner.

Jesus knew that our lives would be subject to daily potholes that would disturb our mind, wobble our will, evoke negative emotions, agitate our attitude and wrinkle our relationships. That is why he gave us this prayer so that we would come to God for a daily will alignment. How do we know God's will? We must become familiar with his written word on a regular basis. We must also learn the various ways that God speaks to us.

The Lord's Prayer begins with God, and we are reminded of the need to know who he is. In the Hebrew culture, a name represented the nature and character of a person. As we learn the various names of God, we will have a better idea of what he is like and what his will is. We will then be able to 'hallow his name' and pray for his kingdom to come based on his name and character.

Reading books is not as popular as it used to be, but one book that stands out to me is the 1973 modern classic by J.I. Packer - KNOWING GOD. In today's world there is too much emphasis on man and his desires rather than knowing God. One time I preached a sermon which I titled: God. Jesus knows God the Father better than anyone. He declared to us the importance of knowing God, not just knowing about Him.

"And this is the eternal life, namely, that they might be having an experiential knowledge of you, the only genuine God, and of Him whom you sent on a mission, Jesus Christ." - John 17:3 Wuest Greek translation

During the 1700's and the 1800's, theology (the study of God), was a popular subject among the populace but today most would consider such a pursuit boring. In reality, who is the most interesting person we could ever get to know? Why of course.....God! We should never find him boring, because there will always be new things to learn about Him. He is the ultimate

creator and displayer of new and wonderful things. He is not like some toy that a child gets for Christmas and then a few days later it becomes boring to the kid. God is on the move, doing new and mighty things every day in his world. He is limitless in his many great qualities.

"The study of the nature and character of God is the most practical project anyone can engage in. Knowing about God is crucially important for the living of our lives. As it would be cruel to an Amazonian tribesman, to fly him to London, put him down without explanation in Trafalgar Square and leave him, as one who knew nothing of English or England, to fend himself - so we are cruel to ourselves if we try to live in this world without knowing about the God whose world it is and who runs it. The world becomes a strange, mad, painful place, and life in it a disappointing and unpleasant business, for those who do not know about God. Disregard the study of God, and you sentence yourself to stumble and blunder through life blindfolded, as it were, with no sense of direction and no understanding of what surrounds you. This way you can waste your life and your soul."

- J.I. Packer

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