**The Prayer Series: wk 2 – Lord’s Prayer – Praise**

**We are talking about the mysterious gift of Prayer. The greatest privilege and most important thing a follower of Jesus can do.**

**We called to, encouraged to, charged to, commanded to pray**

**Yet the #1 most neglected spiritual tool we have.**

**Often misunderstood, turned it into formulas, methods, and a means to get things. We can’t get this wrong - Our spiritual life depends on it - our family depends on it – church depends on it - world depends on it!**

**Prayer is not mediation, reflection or positive thinking.**

**Prayer is not necessarily something we do – it is more about someone we are with. It is about a place – with God.**

**WHEN YOU PRAY -**

**Matthew 6:5 “And when you pray, (Jesus assumes his disciples will pray) do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. (to get attention – to impress others - show how spiritual they are) Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. (peoples honor – “wow you are really spiritual”)**

**\* Remember - You don’t need to be a professional at praying.**

**Good news - No need to worry about what others think.**

**You can stumble, struggles, stutter your way through.**

**6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. (Room is actual & symbolic – maybe you need an actual place – He’s not forbidding public prayer, Jesus did often. Lord’s pray is corporate – this highlights the personal) Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. (The reward is the presence of God – God is the reward)**

**\* Remember – Prayer requires more of the heart than the tongue**

**Prayers is always directed to God alone - not people**

**Basic def. Prayer is “Talking to God” – not talking to people.**

**Can be audible or silent, private or public, formal or informal.**

**The key is remembering every time you pray you are going before God! Even at meals – family events – and in secret!**

**7 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. (repetitious, formulas, intense, sweaty, stomping, demanding, many times selfish prayers - absent our heart)**

**\* Remember – You cannot impress God with your prayers**

**Learning to pray is not about getting more out of God. It is not about getting the golden ticket or the secret formula.**

**I do not pray better than any of you – I pray more confidently. Sincere prayers, rooted deep in Christ, are powerful.**

**I often tell people – reading the bible and praying does not make God love you more – you just know Gods love more.**

**8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.**

**\* Remember – Prayer is about fueling our faith not informing our God.**

**God is not absent minded – distracted – or in need of current events or news. You can’t tell him something he doesn’t know.**

**- Right now – God knows what you are going through!**

**Prayer aligns our will to his – Do you find God useful or beautiful?**

**Remember prayer is about a place with the person Jesus – the secret place of the heart – transparent before God!**

**Jesus then gives most famous prayer on the planet - the Lord’s Prayer.**

**If you have not already, I want you to memorize it this month.**

**Matthew 6:9 “This, then, is how you should pray: “‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, 10 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us today our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’ *(For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.)* (It’s not an incantation – good luck – or a penance)**

**The Lord’s prayer is less formula and more an outline**

**There are many outlines of this – it’s simple yet spectacular**

**1. Praise “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name”**

**A call to praise and worship – realize who God is!**

**2. Purpose “your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven”**

**A surrender to authority of God**

**3. Provision**

* **Practical needs – “Give us today our daily bread”**
* **Spiritual needs – “And forgive us our sins”**
* **Relational needs – “as we also have forgiven our debtors”**

**4. Protection “lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one”**

**A way of rescue in the daily battle to live for God**

**5. Praise “For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever”**

**End with worship and praise! For who He is what He’s done!**

**Notice we acknowledge the supremacy of God – our dependency on God – and the power of God over evil. His name, kingdom and will!**

**This week - “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name”**

**We start in humble acknowledgement of who God is. Call to worship**

BREAK DOWN

* **Our – We need to learn to pray together (our / us / we – used 8X)**

**There is a community aspect to prayer – many times prayer is a prayer of a community calling out to God together.**

**Matthew 18:19 “Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.**

**The power of corporate prayer – when we pray together – as a church – as a family – as a couple (A commitment to my wife).**

* **Father – Prayer is relationship based**

**Not based on a formula or posture – but on our Father**

**Not just a parent – but Father = masculine, strong, authority**

**This is the closest possible relationship with God – a special title**

**Literally “Daddy” – A title for my children. This is profound.**

**Other religions represent God as a creator, ruler, commander, judge, king – only the Bible reveals the true God as Father!**

**A loving – caring – nurturing – protective Father!**

**Your view of your Father often plays a role in your faith. Father wound.**

**If you have a poor father – know this – you can be adopted.**

**Reality - Are we all God’s children? No / Is God the Father of all? No**

**God is creator of all, but only Father to the redeemed in Jesus**

**John 1:12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.**

**Galatians 3:26 - So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.**

**Romans 8:15 So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God’s Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, “Abba, Father.”**

**John 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**

**Only through Jesus can we – Hebrews 4:16 So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.**

**Often called the Lord’s prayer - it was given to the disciples – this is really the disciples prayer. A prayer only true disciples can pray.**

**We are born rejected by God (sin) – born again accepted by God!**

**It is true we all have a Father – Jesus tell us there are two Father’s**

**John 8:44 - The Father of lie’s – the bad father – many follow his lies**

**James 1:17 - The Father of light’s – the good loving father of Heaven**

**James 1:17 - Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights…**

**This is cool - Philippians 2:15 …that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky. (He shines – and in HIM – we shine!)**

**Who is you father? Who do you believe? Who do you follow? Through Jesus we have a Father!**

* **In heaven – God’s ways are not like ours**

**God is a father to us - and he is infinitely above us and overall – above the earth and over the earth. Called in scripture, “our Heavenly Father”**

**Mormon prayers – while they call him “heavenly father” – it is not the Heavenly father of the Bible – Explain – semantics**

**Isaiah 55:8 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. 9 “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.**

**Our Father – is over all - knows all - sees all – created all – He is Omniscient / omnipresent / omnipotent / immutable**

**We see in the prayer of the disciples after they were told they would be arrested and killed if they spoke of Jesus - Acts 4:24 When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. “Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. 25 You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: “‘Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? (they plot in vain – for the Lord is in control – they cannot stop the plan of God) 26 The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one.’ (Jesus) 27 Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. 28 They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. 29 Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. 30 Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” 31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. (The most powerful of prayers – center on his position of authority)**

* **Holy (Hallowed) – God is good and perfect in all His ways.**

**Holy = separate / righteous / good / not like us / set apart – sanctified!**

**He is set apart from all evil – there is no evil in him – perfection!**

**Isaiah 6:3 And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!” (the angels declare eternally)**

**Good and Holy in all his ways – He can never do evil.**

**James 1:13 - When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;**

**He is perfect in even the ways we do not understand.**

**When life takes a turn – when prayers are unanswered…**

**When pain & tragedy strike - God is still good and all powerful.**

**Our relationship w/ God is rooted in this – God is always good**

**Psalm 119:68 – You are good and do only good; teach me your decrees.**

**His is holy – His is not just a father – but a good good father!**

**He is majestic, merciful, impartial, and magnificently good.**

**The amazing wonder of prayer is this - Isaiah 57:15 For this is what the high and exalted One says - he who lives forever, whose name is holy: “I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.**

**The all-powerful, all holy, God of the universe is close to the humble and broken in spirit.**

* **Is Your name – There is something about that name!**

**What is the name of God? The proper name was introduced in Gen 2 - Genesis 2:4 This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.**

**The name of God – YahWeH – Most often translated as - LORD**

**Lord God - Hbw tetragrammaton “4 letters”: YHWH (Yod Heh Vav Heh). Transliterated to Yahowah (Adoni) = Jehovah.**

**Leviticus 22:32 – Do not profane my holy name, for I must be acknowledged as holy by the Israelites. I am the Lord, who sanctifies you!**

**Names of God in the Bible – declare his attributes and power!**

**El (God), El Eloah (strong one) / Elohim (creator) / El-Gibhor (mighty)**

**El shaddai (almighty – Lord of more than enough) / Atik Yomin (ancient of days)**

**El Roi (the one who sees all things) / El Olam (the everlasting to everlasting)**

**Adonai (our master) / Alpha and Omega (The who was and is and is to come!)**

**Yahweh-Saboath – Lord of Hosts (Lord of the Heavens)**

**Yahweh-Yirah – Lord our provider / Yahweh-Tsidkenu – Lord our righteousness**

**Yahweh-Shalom – Lord our peace / Yahweh-M'Kaddish – Lord our sanctification**

**Yahweh-Rophe – Lord our healer / Yahweh-Magen – Lord our shield & protector**

**Yahweh-Nissi – Lord our victory and banner / Yahweh-Rohi – Lord our shepherd**

**Yahweh-El Elyon – Lord most high / Yahweh-Shamah – Lord who is always near**

**But there is one more name - The name above all names – it is this very same God in the flesh – the One who fulfills all these names - the One and only, never has been, nor will be another - Yeshua Hamashiach (hbw) = iesous Christo (gk) = we know Him as Jesus Christ!**

**Jesus is Yahweh with a human nature coming to save his people! Yeshua – Lit means Yahweh saves**

**Philippians 2: 5b Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9** **Therefore God exalted him (Jesus - Yeshua) to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (you will confess that name… as a foe or as a friend)**

**This is my heart - I live to make his name famous, make his name great, to establish his kingdom and extend the love of the Father to everyone! To lift high, the name of Jesus!**

**For there is no other name - Acts 4:12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." - It is the name by which we are saved – and the name the demons tremble at - JESUS!!!!!!!**

**We are going to take some time to pray – if you are new – or not a follower of Jesus – I invite you to pray with us.**

**Prayer is just talking to your dad. Let’s pray what we learned today**

**\* Our –Pray for God to lead you as you pray together with your family, spouse, friends - with your church! Take hand next to you**

**\* Father – Pray to your father in heaven. Acknowledge his faithful love as a good father. Pray for a deep deeper understanding of his fatherhood.**

**Prayer to become a child of God**

**\* in heaven – Pray - acknowledgment God’s ways are not like yours. Thank God for his strength and control of your family, life, church.**

**\* Holy is - Pray – Thank God for His goodness. Acknowledge that even in times of trial you will trust His plan and goodness – no matter what!**

**\* be your name – Pray - Thank God for the cross of Jesus. Tell Jesus thank you – I love you - You are God. Say his name.**