**The Prayer Series: wk 3 – Lord’s Prayer – Purpose & Provision**

**Greatest privilege and most important thing a follower of Jesus can do**

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

**Often misunderstood, we can’t get this wrong. Our spiritual life - our family - our church - our nation - our world depends on it!**

**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 - Remember**

**You don’t need to be a professional at praying - You can’t impress God**

**It is the conversation of a healthy relationship. 2 - way**

**How can you have a relationship without communication?**

**Prayer is not just talking to God, but rather talking with God**

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

**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**

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

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

**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”**

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

**We acknowledge the supremacy of God – our dependency on God – and the power of God over evil.**

**This week – Going Old school - Purpose and Provision – pt 1**

**If we understand He is good, then his will is something we desire.**

**Matthew 6:10 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Possibly the most dangerous part of the prayer. It is a challenge of surrender & trust. Something we don’t tend to do well.**

**This is the prayer filter – for all other prayers – his will not ours**

**Prayed through-out the Bible – even modeled by Jesus.**

**The Kingdom (Matt 6:10 - Your Kingdom come (on earth as it is in heaven)**

* **There is a King – His Name is Jesus**

**1 Tim 6:15 – Jesus – “…the only sovereign, king of kings, and Lord of Lords.**

**Rev 17:14 – “He is the Lord of Lords, and King of Kings, those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful.” / Rev 19:16 – it’s on his robe and thigh.**

**He is the King above all others – either realize it now or to late later**

* **There is a Kingdom – the kingdom of heaven**

**His Kingdom has come - Jesus / Holy Spirit in us and**

**His Kingdom is coming - Jesus return & establishing His kingdom**

**This Kingdom exists wherever His divine rule is acknowledged**

**We are not all citizens of this kingdom…**

**As a follower of Jesus – the kingdom is within you – We (our body) is the “King’s Dominion” - His Kingdom is here right now in us!**

**As followers of Jesus we are to do – Kingdom Business**

**80’s movie - Blues Brothers – “we’re on a mission from God”**

**“as it is in heaven” - In Heaven God rules w/out question. There is no debate or question - no discussion. The angels respond ready to follow God’s will. We are to offer that kind of obedience in our prayers.**

**The Plan (Matt 6:10 - Your will be done (on earth as it is in heaven)**

* **There is a surrendering - To the rule & reign of Jesus**

**When we do that we actually become part of God’s itinerary.**

**We’re acknowledge His reign over – our life / our family / our church / our work / our community / our country / our world!**

**Prayer is aligning our will to his will – God what do you want?**

**Does prayer change things? – No. God changes things.**

**If prayer alone changed things, world religions would have incredible impact. Instead, God remains sovereign. He alone determines what happens, not our prayers. We are surrendering to the LORD GOD!**

* **There is a breaking**

**It’s been said God will bend you, but won’t break you – But Truth is – He will break you – but he won’t crush you. The plan is to break us.**

**Ps 51:17 - The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. (break our will, bullheadedness, self-sufficiency)**

**Psalm 147:3 - He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.**

**This is how trials and tragedies can be so valuable – they cause us to align to the will of God – to surrender and submit.**

**Psalm 34:15 The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their cry. 17 The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. 18 The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit. 19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the Lord delivers him out of them all. (Afflictions of the who? The righteous. God even in trials, I trust your will! Even when it hurts & terrible things happen.)**

**\* Prayer doesn’t always change the situation, but it always changes us**

**Know this – 1. God’s will is not always easy or popular. 2. God’s will is more about who we are becoming than what we are doing. 3. God’s will is mostly about obedience in the little things.**

**God’s will led the disciples thru challenge, crowds turned against, unjustly imprisoned. Can you sing in the prison?**

**Matthew 6:10 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**(We must get this first part – before we can understand the next) 11 Give us today our daily bread. (When we get the first right – we get this right – we ask according to God’s will)**

**The Ask**

* **God wants us to ask! (Matthew 6:11 Give us today our daily bread.)**

**John 16:24 Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.**

**James 4:2b You do not have because you do not ask God.**

**1 Peter 5:7 Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.**

**We should never hesitate to ask. We are invited to.**

**What you have need of Jesus cares about.**

**How often? “daily bread” God wants us to walk with Him –Trusting daily**

**We need him every day! Lament. 3:22 The Lord’s loving-kindness never stops, His compassion never fails. It is new every morning.**

**BTW - It does not say “give us this day our Mercedes”. This is a prayer for our needs not our greed’s! This are not wrong – but can be…**

**But the bible says - Psalm 37:4 “Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart.”**

**This is to be with the “will of God” filter - If we focus on God’s will God changes our desires. We begin to desire what He desires.**

**John 7:17 If anyone’s will is to do God’s will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. (That is the greatest benefit of praying God’s will – we understand Jesus, His words, and will better)**

**Can we ask for anything… yes and no.**

* **God wants us to ask for what is good (Pray for what Heaven wants)**

**1 John 5:14 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.**

**God asks us – to pray for what is good – to pray His will**

**What to pray for – what not to pray for: Ask yourself… 4 Q’s**

* **Is this God’s will for you? (already revealed in Scripture) Yes - Pray**

**We like to pray for things and about things God has already spoken on.**

**Relationship issues, money issues, etc. When God has already spoken – don’t pray for direction – pray for the strength to do it.**

* **Is this something that honors God? Yes – Pray**

**Human life – family – your marriage – for the character of Jesus – yes**

**If it directly disobeys what God has spoken – don’t bother praying**

**It dishonors God – Hatred, revenge, war, harm lives – no**

**James 4:2b You do not have because you do not ask God. 3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. (will not receive it if out of selfish motives)**

* **Is this a request of selfishness or blessing others? Blessing – Pray**

**Kingdom work – spread the hope of Jesus – to be a blessing**

**Car / house / luxury – not a sin to have or earn. But the purpose of those things is to honor God with them and bless others with it.**

**2 Cor 9:6-8, 1 Tim 6:17-19 – blessed to be a blessing – and to enjoy it.**

* **Is this drawing you closer or further from God? Closer – Pray**

**Should I ask forgiveness / forgive that person – yes yes yes**

**A job or activity that can negatively affect your walk with God… no**

**Matthew 7:8 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. 9 Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? 11 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!**

**I hear that – but everything seems to be falling apart – and I am praying faithfully, praying his will and hear nothing! If God does not give His children stones or snakes, why doesn’t He act on my behalf?” GOD – your will be done – GOD – you are good. The mess you’re in today will become your trophies on your wall tomorrow.**

**The Quandary (The problem – dilemma)**

**Isaiah 46:10 - I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.**

**Psalm 115:3 Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him.**

**Psalm 135:6 The LORD does whatever pleases him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths.**

**Matthew 6:8 … for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.**

**Psalm 139:1-3 – knows our thoughts, needs, actions, struggles – everything!**

**If this is all true and God knows everything, Why pray?**

**1. Because Jesus prayed – Luke 6:12, 5:16, Matt 6:5-6**

**Like baptism – he didn’t need it – but he knew we needed it. He prayed to show us – how to pray and why to pray and how often to pray.**

**2. Because God call us to pray - Matt 7:7-8, 1Sam 12:23**

**Invited to, challenged to, commanded to - can even be a sin not to**

**Nothing you say surprises God. He knows our secret thoughts, hidden motives, unspoken dreams, & what you’re dealing with – and still pray**

**This is liberating for my prayer life - I don’t have to shout, haggle, try to make him understand. I don’t have to go into a long explanation, or prayer formula – or beg. He knew the message before I ever sent it. But yet he still says – send it.**

**Comes down to this - God knows what we really need, we don’t**

**\*\* David Platt - “The greatest barrier to the spread of the gospel may not be the self-indulgent immorality of our culture, but the self-sufficient mentality in the church… evident in our prayerlessness.”**

**(Ro 8:26-27) You see our perspective is limited to our experiences, desires and knowledge. That is why we pray “your will be done”**

**Prayer is a privilege – it’s is an honor – God lets us pray**

**He lets us come – He invites us to come and sit with Him**

**3 – Because it expresses our total dependence on God**

**God doesn’t need our prayers – we pray not for his good, but for ours. It teaches us to rely on the one who is charge.**

**True prayer gets our eyes off our self and onto the King of Kings. When we pray we know – all our needs are met.**

**Philippians 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. (we bring “requests” not demands) 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

**Why peace follows? Because when we hand it over to the one in charge, knowing He will take care of us no matter what, there’s peace**

**Think about Kids - we drag them to places - we know where we’re going, they just go where we go. All they have to do was ask – where? Sometimes they asked, sometimes they wait, trusting we will take care of them, feed them, get them home, places on time - depending on us. That’s faith.**

**In prayer we acknowledge that all our plans, all our efforts, our agenda’s, and dreams… are his and subject to his plan.**

**4. Because God uses our prayers to accomplish His will**

**We see again and again in scripture God’s Sovereign hand working thru his people’s prayers for his glory.**

**David Platt – “The purposes of God are unchanging, but the plan of God, from our perspective is unfolding.” God has hardwired the universe to run on prayer.**

**We pray because He is God and we are not. If we believe God is in charge – we pray. And then we stand back and watch.**

**5. Because prayer to God is and always be about relationship**

**Prayer is not a something – it is a someone. Prayer is about growing in our trust and understanding our God and Father.**

**This changing of the way we see prayer is vital to our walk w/ God**

**The goal is not to pray – but to be with and walk with God.**

**Prayer creates an opportunity for an encounter with God. Something greater than prayer remains. The Lord Himself.**

**We are going to take some time to pray:**

**Matthew 6:10 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Pray – God let Your Kingdom come, will be done… in my life, spouse, kids, mother/ father, money, church, nation, the election. (1 Tim 2:1-3)**

**Pray – God help me to respond like the heavens with obedience in every area of my life. Even when it is difficult.**

**Pray – God thank you for meeting my daily needs (Matt 6:33, Phil 4:9)**

**Pray - Ask God for what you have need of – God your will be done.**

**Tell your neighbor - Get a Prayer life**

**Mark 14:3**

* **Her brokenness – represented her past**
* **Her brokenness – represented her future**

**That is the prayer – that Jesus desires of us.**