

## THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER AND WORSHIP

ONE OF THE GREATEST CHALLENGES OF THE AMERICAN CHURCH IS HOW MUCH WE POSSESS OF THE MATERIAL THINGS OF THIS WORLD, AND THE BUSINESS IT TAKES TO MAINTAIN THAT PACE OF LIFE. WE FORGET TO SPEND TIME WITH GOD. WE DON'T FEEL THE NEED TO PRAY VERY OFTEN. SURE, WHEN A TOUGH SEASON HITS WITH TRIAL AFTER TRIAL, WE HIT OUR KNEES AND CRY OUT TO GOD. "HELP ME!" THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH THIS. BUT WHAT ABOUT THE SEASONS OF PEACE, WHEN THINGS ARE GOING WELL? DO YOU WORSHIP HIM? WORSHIP IS MORE THAN JUST SINGING. THIS WHOLE SERVICE IS A WORSHIP SERVICE. WE SING AT THE BEGINNING, WHICH IS JUST PRAYER TO A MELODY IF YOU ARE TRULY WORSHIPPING, THEN WE WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES, AND FINALLY, WITH THE READING OF HIS SACRED WORD. SO, I ASK YOU, HAVE YOU POISED YOUR HEART IN SUCH A PLACE THAT GIVES SPACE TO REVERE AND HONOR HIM TODAY? THE REALITY IS, THERE ARE MANY WHO DON'T KNOW HOW TO PRAY, MANY WHO ARE EMBARESSSED TO SING, AND MANY WHO DON'T KNOW GOD AT ALL (IN THE CHURCH) NO WONDER GOD FEELS SO DISTANT AND FOREIGN TO SO MANY. I MEAN, HOW CAN YOU TRULY HAVE INTAMACY WITH SOMEONE YOU DO NOT KNOW, OR UNDERSTAND? THIS IS A MATTER WORTH LOOKING AT TODAY AND I PRAY BY THE END OF THIS SERMON, YOU WILL HAVE GOOD DIRECTION AND BE INSPIRED TO EITHER BEGIN, DIG DEEPER, OR ENHANCE YOUR INTAMACY WITH GOD. WE WILL DO ALL OF THIS WITH THE POWER AND GUIDANCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AS WE READ THE SCRIPTURES.....PRAY

Jude 17-21 ESV

<sup>17</sup> But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> They said to you, “In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions.” <sup>19</sup> It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, <sup>21</sup> keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.

WHAT IS PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT? IT IS BEING FILLED FRESH WITH THE SPIRIT OF GOD BECAUSE YOU’VE SPENT TIME IN HIS WORD, YOU’VE SPENT TIME IN REVERENCE AND WORSHIP SPEAKING IN TOUNGES IS AN OPTION BUT NOT MANDATORY

UNCLUTTER AND CLEAR YOUR MIND, FOCUS ON GOD AND HIS MAJESTY, THANK HIM FOR ALL THAT HE IS AND ALL THAT HE’S DONE, THEN PROCEED

Matthew 21:18-22 ESV

<sup>18</sup> In the morning, as he was returning to the city, he became hungry. <sup>19</sup> And seeing a fig tree by the wayside, he went to it and found nothing on it but only leaves. And he said to it, “May no fruit ever come from you again!” And the fig tree withered at once.

<sup>20</sup> When the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, “How did the fig tree wither at once?” <sup>21</sup> And Jesus answered them, “Truly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but

even if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' it will happen. <sup>22</sup> And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith."

Mark 11:24 ESV

<sup>24</sup> Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

HAVE FAITH IN GOD, NOT YOUR WORDS, BELIEVE YOU WILL RECEIVE ACCORDING TO HIS WILL, AND IT'S YOURS

Mark 9:2-8 ESV

<sup>2</sup> And after six days Jesus took with him Peter, James, and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, <sup>3</sup> and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup> And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup> And Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." <sup>6</sup> For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup> And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him." <sup>8</sup> And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only.

THERE WERE MANY DISCIPLES, JESUS PICKED 12 TO BE CLOSE TO HIM, JESUS PICKED 3 OUT OF THE 12 TO SEE HIS GLORY

## JESUS TAUGHT HIS DISCIPLES HOW TO PRAY AND IT'S THE PERFECT FRAMEWORK FOR US WHEN WE PRAY

Luke 11:1 ESV

**11** Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”

Matthew 6:9 ESV

<sup>9</sup> Pray then like this:

“Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.

AKNOWLEDGE THAT HE IS ABBA FATHER  
HOLY AND REVERRED IS YOUR CHARACTER

1. EL ELOAH- GOD- MIGHTY AND STRONG
2. ELOHIM- GOD- CREATOR
3. EL SHADDAI- GOD- ALMIGHTY
4. YAHWEH, JEHOVAH, OR ADONAI- GOD IS LORD
5. JEHOVAH JIREH- THE LORD WILL PROVIDE
6. JEHOVAH RAPHA- THE LORD WHO HEALS
7. JEHOVAH NISSI- THE LORD OUR BANNER
8. JEHOVAH M'KADDESH- THE LORD WHO MAKES YOU HOLY
9. JEHOVAH SHALOM- THE LORD OUR PEACE
10. JEHOVAH TSIDKENU- THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS
11. JEHOVAH ROHI-THE LORD OUR SHEPHERD
12. JEHOVAH SHAMMAH- THE LORD IS THERE

13. JEHOVAH SABAOTH- THE LORD OF HOSTS
14. EL ELYON- GOD MOST HIGH
15. EL ROI- THE GOD OF SEEING
16. EL OLAM- EVERLASTING GOD
17. EL GIBHOR- MIGHTY GOD
18. JESUS CHRIST- THE LORD SAVES

Matthew 6:10 ESV

<sup>10</sup>Your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

WHATEVER IT TAKES TO BUILD YOUR KINGDOM AND BRING  
YOU GLORY IN MY LIFE, LET IT BE DONE ACCORDING TO YOUR  
PERFECT WILL....BRING HEAVEN TO EARTH

Matthew 6:11 ESV

<sup>11</sup>Give us this day our daily bread,

I TRUST YOU TO MEET MY NEEDS AND PROVIDE FOR ME  
FAITHFULLY, LIKE YOU HAVE ALWAYS DONE

Matthew 6:12 ESV

<sup>12</sup>and forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

FORGIVENESS, A MANADATORY COMMAND

DEBTS/OPHEILEMA/OBLIGATION, WHAT IS OWED

Matthew 6:14-15

<sup>14</sup> For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, <sup>15</sup> but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

FORGIVE/APHIEMI/PARDON,CANCEL,ABANDON

TRESPASSES/PARAPTOMA/SIN, MORAL FAILURE,  
TRANSGRESSION

YOU MUST FORGIVE, TO HONOR GOD AND TO BRING HEALING  
TO YOUR SOUL.... THATS HOW IMPORTANT IT IS  
UNFORGIVENESS IS POISON TO THE SOUL AND A HUGE  
BLOCKER FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND YOUR GROWTH IN GOD

Matthew 6:13 ESV

<sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

TEMPTATION/PEIRASMOS/TEST,TRIAL

LORD SPARE ME FROM A TRIAL, BUT IF A TRIAL MUST COME,  
THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME A WAY TO NOT SIN BECAUSE OF IT

James 1:13-14 ESV

<sup>13</sup> Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself

tempts no one. <sup>14</sup> But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.

TEMPTED/PEIRAZO/TO TEST, TO TRY AND TRAP

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A TEST AND TEMPTATION IS THE MOTIVATION FOUND IN THE TESTERS MOTIVES, THE DEVIL TEMPTS SO THAT THE BELIEVER MIGHT FAIL GOD'S STANDARDS OF FAITH AND SO SIN; GOD TESTS SO THAT HE MAY DETERMINE AND SHARPEN TRUE CHARACTER WITH NO FOCUS ON THE BELIEVER FAILING

**GIVE EXAMPLE OF HOW YOU PRAY**

WORSHIP IS A STATE OF MIND AND A CONDITION OF HEART THAT IS CONSCIOUS OF GOD'S PRESENCE AND HIS COMMANDS

Romans 12:1 ESV

**12** I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

OBEDIENCE TO HIS WORD IS WORSHIP, SINGING PRAISES TO HIM AND ABOUT HIM IS WORSHIP, LOVE ACTIVELY TOWARDS HIM AND OTHERS IS WORSHIP, TITHING A PORTION OF YOUR TIME, TALENTS, AND TREASURES IS WORSHIP, LIVING YOUR LIFE FOR HIM AND NOT FOR YOURSELF IS WORSHIP

John 4:24 ESV<sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

YOU DON'T GET TO MAKE UP YOUR OWN VERSION OF GOD  
HE IS NOT MADE OF WOOD OR STONE, HE IS SPIRIT, HE IS  
TRUTH

Hebrews 12:28-29 ESV

<sup>28</sup> Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, <sup>29</sup> for our God is a consuming fire.

I PRAY THAT TODAY HAS INSPIRED YOU TO REPENT AND GO  
DEEPER INTO AN INTIMANT, EMOTIONAL, REVERANT,  
HONORABLE, OBEDIENT, AND ANOINTED RELATIONSHIP WITH  
THE LIVING GOD

END