

## THE PATTERN FOR PRAYER

Intro: A couple had their pastor over for dinner. After he left, she said, "I think the pastor stole our spoon." This bothered her for a whole year. After a year, they had the pastor over for dinner again. The lady could not resist and asked, "Did you steal our spoon last year?" The pastor said, "No, I put it inside your Bible."

Luke 11:1 New Living Translation

**11** Once Jesus was in a certain place praying. As he finished, one of his disciples came to him and said, "Lord, **teach us to pray**, just as John taught his disciples."

Interesting that of all the things the disciples could have asked for, they wanted to know how to pray.

These men wanted to learn how to develop an effective prayer life. They had a desire for prayer.

The disciples had just witnessed Jesus praying, they noticed the closeness he had with the Father. They witnessed the miracles that He performed after prayer, (Feeding 5,000 - **Matt. 15**, Transfiguration - **Luke 9**, Raising Lazarus - **John 11**) They saw the power of prayer lived out and the glory it brought to God and they wanted the same power in their own lives.

**Note:** Their request is not just about how to pray, but they specifically say, "**Teach us TO pray.**" We need to learn to pray!

Sometimes our prayers are token guilt prayers out of obligation not something that we actually think will make a difference.

We don't want to get our encouragement from the formula of praying rather than answers.

Matthew 6:7 "When you pray, don't babble on and on as the Gentiles do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again

Religion reroutes prayer to a ritual of repetition rather than a reality of results. We need to expect results when we pray!!

If we don't expect results then we reduce prayer to a lifeless repetition of ritualistic practices.

They say practice makes perfect, but we don't want to practice performance based prayers.

Answers to prayer are Gods way of introducing us to the Joy of the Journey; the fullness of Joy.

John 16:23-24

New Living Translation <sup>23</sup> At that time you won't need to ask me for anything. I tell you the truth, you will ask the Father directly, and he will grant your request because you use my name. <sup>24</sup> You haven't done this before. Ask, using my name, and you will receive, and you will have abundant joy.

We should celebrate the breakthrough in answered prayer not just being satisfied by the routine of it. **We should never reduce prayer to a practice only.**

Faith is the key ingredient with prayer! Remember Heb 11:6, "Without faith it is impossible to please God"? That tells us, WITH FAITH pleasing God is possible!!!

Matthew 21:22 "You can pray for anything, and if you have faith, you will receive it."

In verse 21 Jesus told the disciples, "I tell you the truth, if you have faith and don't doubt you can even say to a mountain, be lifted up and thrown into the sea."

**FAITH IS THE FOUNDATION to any move of God!!**

We have been given an assignment as a representative of heaven on earth to make a difference for such a time as this. The assignment is in alignment with the will of heaven. Prayer was never designed as a Christian activity to keep us busy. Prayer is an engagement with the heart of the Father for fellowship.

**Ephesians 1:3** "...has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ"

Every spiritual blessing is in my account. We have access to the account. There are things we pray for that we already have even though they are not

in my possession. It is useless to have millions in a bank account if I don't know the account number or the password to access it.

Many people say they have everything but can't display anything.

May I suggest that Prayer is the password to access your heavenly possessions.

We are positioned to partner with the Father through prayer. Through partnership we contend with prayer based on our position (relationship) not our title.

## **TITLE: THE PATTERN FOR PRAYER**

Luke 18:1 "One day Jesus taught the apostles to keep praying and never stop or lose hope." Passion Translation

Matthew 21:13 <sup>3</sup> He said to them, "The Scriptures declare, 'My Temple will be called a house of prayer.'

### **The Pattern for Prayer**

1. Prayer is about **Resting/Recognizing**- Our Father
2. Prayer is about **Reverencing**- Hallowed be thy name
3. Prayer is about **Reigning**-Thy Kingdom come
4. Prayer is about **Resigning**-Thy will be done
5. Prayer is about **Requesting**- Give us this day
6. Prayer is about **Releasing**- Forgive us
7. Prayer is about **Relying**-Lead us not
8. Prayer is about **Rejoicing**-For thine is the kingdom

Every time a believer uses the name of Jesus, Heaven appears in full demonstration and an expression of Heaven is manifest.

Every time a believer says, "In the name of Jesus" Heaven invades that circumstance.

The story is told of two lumberjacks - an older and a younger - both known for their expertise and speed. The younger challenged the older to a contest to see who could cut down the most trees in one day.

The contest began. The younger man, with his vim, vigor and vitality, began in earnest chopping down one tree after another without stopping. He soon noticed that the older lumberjack chopped trees for one hour then took a fifteen-minute break.

At the end of the day when the felled trees were counted, the older lumberjack had chopped down one-third more trees than the younger lumberjack. Puzzled, the younger lumberjack asked the older, “**How could you, taking a break every hour, cut down more trees than I did cutting nonstop all day?**” The older lumberjack responded, “**Because when I stopped, I sharpened my ax.**”

A lot of us are just like that, we spend our time chopping away in the Lord's work, never accomplishing much for Him and all the time we are simply using a dull ax. If we do not take the time to pray, we can never expect to enjoy God's power in our lives, nor can we expect Him to bless our efforts.

It is prayer that brings us into God's awesome presence, **Heb. 4:16, “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”**

Baptist preacher John Bunyan said, “**You can do more than pray, after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed.**” Prayer should be our first resort, and our first priority. How we need to ask God for a burden to pray!

#### PRAYER POSITIONS US FOR POWER

The Lord's Prayer isn't really the right title because it says, “forgive us our sins” which we all know Jesus is sinless.

Bill Johnson said, “It should be called The Apostolic Prayer. The apostolic mandate is to get the blueprint of Heaven, implement it here on earth until this world reflects the nature of Heaven.”

Bill Johnson Notes on Prayer:

Prayer is not an assignment to persuade God but to engage with him

**Matthew 6:7 New Living Translation**

<sup>7</sup> “When you pray, don’t babble on and on as the Gentiles do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. <sup>8</sup> Don’t be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!

Matthew 7:7 <sup>7</sup> “Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

<sup>11</sup> So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.

CONTRADICTION?

Repeated prayer changes me more than me trying to convince or coerce God into changing his mind.

Don’t ever allow your lack of confidence in Gods answer deter you from continually petitioning God through prolonged prayer.

Unanswered Prayer is not unanswered prayer!!!

Answers to prayer strengthens you to pray more, just like the results of your faith in action gives the confidence to believe God for bigger things.

Prayer is placing a demand on the unseen miracle realm of heaven to manifest itself from that Kingdom to this one.

**1. Prayer Is About Resting/Recognizing – *Our Father which art in Heaven*** - Who He is and what He can do! **Jer. 33:3**. Babbling repetitious Prayer doesn’t change anything, but God does! He is our Father, **1 John 3:1-2!** We can rest in that relationship! Resting is relaxing that HE has everything under control. What is the will of God? **(on earth as it is in Heaven)**

**Galatians 4:4-7** But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. <sup>5</sup> God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. <sup>6</sup> And because we are his children,

God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, “Abba, Father.”<sup>7</sup> Now you are no longer a slave but God’s own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir

He is only Father to those in a saving and personal relationship with Him, a communion that only comes by the grace of adoption.

*For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs-- heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. ([Romans 8:14-17](#))*

This prayer, although personal, takes on a corporate roll as it says, “**Our** Father not **my** father”

## **2. Prayer Is About Reverencing – *Hallowed be thy name* –**

Honored, revered. Always take the time to worship the Lord in prayer!  
Too often we run into the throne room with our wish list and forget just to love on Him

Let’s never take the Lord’s name in vain by saying He told you so, when He didn’t. Don’t ever use his name as a manipulative tactic to get an edge on someone. If you knew him, you would not use his name like that.

The word "hallow" means sanctify. The same Greek word stands behind both English words. Jesus tells us to pray, "Let your name be sanctified." Sanctify can mean **make holy or treat as holy**. We hallow his name by **surrendering to the call he has put on our lives**.

He is our hiding place (**Psalm 32:7**). God is a place of refuge. I can run to God whenever I need to, knowing I'll be safe. God will preserve us from trouble.

God will protect you from being seen but not out of his sight. The hiding place puts you out of reach from the enemy!!!

**3. Prayer Is About Reigning – *Thy kingdom come*** Prayer allows us to participate in God’s kingdom work around the world!

It is an obligation for us to pray with faith believing that the heavenly kingdom will be on public display through his church on earth.

Why do we get this strange perverted sense of fulfillment thinking this world will be burned up in judgement from a God bent on destroying it rather than transforming it by the invasion of his Kingdom through a newly redesigned temple filled with the fire power of the Holy Spirit?

Our divine authority comes by being in alignment with his assignment. What’s the assignment? Bringing his world into this one.

Our destiny is to go to heaven. Our assignment is to bring the place we are going here!!! GO FIGURE THAT ONE

Jesus said, Matthew 28:18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”

For some reason we have been nervous about someone who has no authority. If the devil has no authority, where does he get it? He gets it from those who come in agreement with the LIE!

Listen, you have not had a good day until you see the impossibilities of life yield to the name of Jesus. Until you see starving humanity feast on the bread of life JESUS, until you see the spiritually dehydrated dip into the spring of living water-Jesus!!

My desire is to see the Signs, Miracles and Wonders flow more outside the church than inside. I want you guys to take on your roll as Ambassadors.

Jesus said in Matthew 12:28 “But if I am casting out demons by the Spirit of God, then the Kingdom of God has arrived among you.”

**This is an example of Kingdom Invasion**

We are all carriers of a message that delivers PRESENCE. We are distributors of His dominion.

**4. Prayer Is About Resigning – *Thy will be done*** 1 John 5:14-15 New International Version <sup>14</sup> **This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.** <sup>15</sup> **And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.**

Who’s will do you really want?

Thy Kingdom Come-Thy Will be done; means we are seeking God's solution to a particular problem.

**Don't ever question his goodness if there is a delay**

Delays are never punishment! They prepare you for a different position

I know there has been a misuse of declarations and people commanding and demanding where their life or immaturity doesn't back it up but that doesn't mean we stop declaring with authority. There is something about partnering and connecting with the will of God being established on earth by our prayers!! **Somebody has to model the heart of God on earth.**

**Everything that you can't find in the person of Jesus, you have reason to question.** For instance, what is good in heaven should be here. What is not in heaven should not be here. Things that are found here that are not in heaven have been created by mankind's choices.

**People who say that Cancer comes from God to build character still go to the doctor to get rid of it!! LOL May we never partner with a lie to give it life.**

If I am going to pray "Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven", **I have to discover what His Kingdom is and is like!**

Someone had a vision where they were taken to heaven and they heard the sound of a heartbeat. The closer they got to the throne, the louder it was. An angel appeared and touched his ear, He then heard HOLY, HOLY Holiness is the heartbeat of Heaven. In heaven everything is connected to identity from presence. So if we are going to pray the will of heaven on earth, we need to value what he values. **What is that? The presence of God**

So, if that's the case, then what does it look like on earth to develop an atmosphere or culture that rotates around the presence of God?

Prophet Larry Randolph said, "If God is as big as he says he is, then he shouldn't be that hard to find"

Psalm 16:8 David said, "Daily I set the Lord before me. Because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken"

When David said, "I have set the Lord always before me", he felt that he was always in the presence of God -- that God was present with him, always near him, and always before his face.

Peter quoted [Psalm 16:8](#) during his Pentecost sermon ([Acts 2:14-36](#)). The first sentence of [Acts 2:25](#) states, "David said about him: 'I saw the Lord always before me.'" The Greek word



for saw in [Acts 2:25](#) means *to keep before one's eyes*, metaphorically, *to be mindful of one always*([Ref. 5](#) Thayer's Greek Lexicon). **When we see the Lord always before us, he is our focus, and he is pre-eminent in our thoughts, words, and deeds -- always.**

**PICTURE: Jesus in front of you daily!**

Point: Let us constantly be aware of God's presence daily

**5. Prayer Is About Requesting – Give us this day our daily bread - Phil. 4:6; Jn. 14:13; 15:16; 16:23** He will answer, and often in shocking ways.

In its early days, Dallas Theological Seminary was in critical need of \$10,000 to keep the work going. During a prayer meeting, renowned Bible teacher Harry Ironside, a lecturer at the school, prayed, "**Lord, you own the cattle on a thousand hills. Please sell some of those cattle to help us meet this need.**" Shortly after the prayer meeting, a check for \$10,000 arrived at the school, sent days earlier by a friend who had no idea of the urgent need or of Ironside's prayer. The man simply said the money came from the sale of some of his cattle!

This living, super-substantial bread is Christ Himself. In the Lord's Prayer, we are not asking merely for material bread for physical health, but for the spiritual bread for eternal life.

**John 6:27-58 Jesus says, I am the bread of life.**

**The most natural dynamic for a Christian is answered prayer.** A lot of prayer is actually an expression of unbelief. Our faith can only go as far as our awareness of God's goodness.

Give us this day our daily bread- This is not a prayer for my provision as much as it is for "our provision". Can we agree that most of our prayers have not been about the "US" it has been about the "ME"

Give me today, tomorrows bread. We pray expecting immediate response but that is on our terms not always the one answering the prayers. He

knows the beginning from the end. We typically pray when all we have is the end in sight.

Did you ever think that answered prayer is also for the benefit of those we influence rather than just us personally?

When we pray "Our Father" we in essence are saying, do something in me to benefit the whole. That is what the KINGdom is all about!!!!

Selfish prayers seldom get answered!!

Give us today, tomorrows bread means give me more than I need to accomplish everything you want me to do

From what I understand, the early church didn't lack because they understood the "US" principle in the prayer. Kingdom Prayer

When Peter was in prison, the church prayed and God moved in power to release him, **Acts 12:3-17**.

The Puritan Thomas Watson said, "***The angel fetched Peter out of prison, but it was prayer that fetched the angel.***"

## **6. Prayer Is About Releasing – *Forgive us our sins; for we also forgive everyone that is indebted to us***

1.) **We are to release our sins** - 1 John 1:9 III. Not my neighbor's sins, but my own!

2.) **We are to release the sins of others** - Matt. 6:15; Eph. 4:32 III. Regardless of what they may have done or said to you; or done or said about you!

**FORGIVE US OUR SINS** as we forgive those who sinned against us: One translation says, "forgive us our failures in our duty to you as we have forgiven others in their duty to us"

The prayer for provision is a daily responsibility.

The need to confess sin for regardless, is being sensitive to the heart of God. I don't want to leave any rock unturned or covered up sin that would cause me to enter his presence with my head hung.

## **7. Prayer Is About Relying – *Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil***

1.) **A Request for guidance - John 16:13** When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future.

We need His guidance to make it through this pilgrim journey; but I am glad He promised it to us.

**Psa. 37:23** The LORD directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives.

### **2.) A Request for Deliverance and Victory –**

**1 Cor. 15:57** But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**2 Cor. 2:14.** But thank God! He has made us his captives and continues to lead us along in Christ's triumphal procession. Now he uses us to spread the knowledge of Christ everywhere, like a sweet perfume.

**LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION:** This is a posture of humility before the Lord. Lord as you lead me today, take my stupidity into consideration.

**DELIVER US FROM THE EVIL ONE:** Ephesians 4 says don't give place to the devil. My personal prayer again is a pluralistic prayer. Lead "US" not into temptation.

## **8. Prayer Is About Rejoicing – Matt. 6:13b – *For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, for ever. Amen***

**Note:** Prayer can be described by the acronym **FACTS**. **F=Faith; A=Adoration; C=Confession; T=Thanksgiving; S=Supplications.**

William Lee once wrote, "***It is not the arithmetic of our prayers, how many they are; nor the rhetoric of our prayers, how eloquent they may***

***be; nor the geometry of our prayers, how long they be; nor the logic of our prayers, how argumentative they may be; nor the method of our prayers, how orderly they may be: it is fervency of spirit which availeth much!"***

If your prayer life is like mine, there is plenty of room for improvement. I think this would be a good time for us to begin the process of renovation in our prayer lives. He his inviting you to refine your prayer so that it more closely fits His pattern.

The Prayer Starts, "OUR FATHER" and ends with "THY KINGDOM COME"  
All Kingdom issues are family issues.