

PRAYER OF PRAISE

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22 NOVEMBER 2014

Prayer should be important to us as believers. There are different types of prayer. There is The Prayer of Faith, The Prayer of Intercession, etc.

To recap one verse from last week.

James 5:14-16

" Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. (AND THEN THAT PERSON SHOULD STOP ... OVER-EATING, SEXUAL SIN, ANGER, TEMPER, DRUG TAKING, SMOKING, ETC). Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. (OF HABITUAL SINS? ... PROBABLY IN YOUR LOCAL CONGREGATION ... PEOPLE THAT ARE CLOSE TO YOU.) The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

Today we will look at The Prayer of Praise. Before we start, let us look at how important our prayers are.

Hebrews 2:1-3

"Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, (TO MAKE LIGHT OF, SO FAMILIAR IT DOESN'T MAKE AN IMPACT ON US ... NOW IT'S "HO HUM"!!) which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,"

(NB THERE ARE 7 WARNINGS IN THE BOOK OF HEBREWS ... There are 2 in these verses)

The scriptures encourage us to pray ... that may be a measure of our conversion? We need to be a praying people. Our prayers must mean something to us ... if they are to mean something to God. Do we pray to know God ... or just "pray to pray"? (just to "tick the box").

Satan tries to limit your praying because he knows your praying will limit him. Is prayer your steering wheel (to direct you in your life) or just your spare tyre (when you are in trouble)? The measure of our prayer is the measure of our power.

Ephesians 6:17-18

" And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; **praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit,** being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—"

Ephesians 6:18 AMPLIFIED BIBLE

" **Pray at all times (on every occasion, in every season) in the Spirit, with all [manner of] prayer and entreaty.** To that end keep alert and watch with strong purpose and perseverance, interceding in behalf of all the saints (God's consecrated people)."

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

" Rejoice always, **pray without ceasing,** (WITHOUT LONG GAPS) in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Keep in the spirit of prayer. Pray twice in your life ... once when you feel like praying ... and the second time ... when you don't feel like it!! We should be in an attitude of prayer ... at all times.

Colossians 4:2-4

"**Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;** meanwhile **praying also for us,** that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, that I

may make it manifest, as I ought to speak." (God looks for people who want to be a partner ... who want to intercede).

Colossians 4:2 NET

"Be devoted to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving." (BE DEVOTEES OF PRAYER!!)

Luke 21:34-36

"But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. **Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.**" (THIS IS ADVICE FOR THE DISCIPLES ... AT THE END OF THE AGE).

PRAY ALWAYS!!

Prayer should be a major part of our lives. Praying frequently. We always find time for things that are important to us.

Psalms 55:16-17

" As for me, I will call upon God,
And the Lord shall save me.

Evening and morning and at noon

I will pray, and cry aloud,
And He shall hear my voice."

Three times per day ... evening, morning and noon.

Daniel 6:3-4

" Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm. So the governors and satraps sought to find some charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could

find no charge or fault, because he was faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him."

Daniel 6:6-9

" So these governors and satraps thronged before the king, and said thus to him: "King Darius, live forever! All the governors of the kingdom, the administrators and satraps, the counsellors and advisors, have consulted together to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree, that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. Now, O king, establish the decree and sign the writing, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter." Therefore King Darius signed the written decree."

Daniel 6:10

"Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, **he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.**"

Daniel 6:11

" Then these men assembled and **found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.**" (WITH PEOPLE EAVESDROPPING AT HIS DOOR)

Daniel 6:19-23

" Then the king arose very early in the morning and went in haste to the den of lions. And when he came to the den, he cried out with a lamenting voice to Daniel. The king spoke, saying to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?"

Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever! My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you."

Now the king was exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God."

The Prayer of Praise is ... to express approval, admiration, to honour, to value, to admire. Should we value, admire, honour God? Yes. But do we? Do we tell Him? Do we do it often? How much do we value our Father in our intimate time together?

1 Chronicles 23:1-5

"So when David was old and full of days, he made his son Solomon king over Israel.

And he gathered together all the leaders of Israel, with the priests and the Levites. Now the Levites were numbered from the age of thirty years and above; and the number of individual males was thirty-eight thousand. Of these, twenty-four thousand were to look after the work of the house of the Lord, six thousand were officers and judges, four thousand were gatekeepers, and **four thousand praised the Lord with musical instruments, "which I made," said David, "for giving praise."**

Four thousand men to give praise to God ... this was their job. Praising God. Praising Him twice a day ... morning and evening.

1 Chronicles 23:30

" to stand every morning to thank and praise the Lord, and likewise at evening;"

Revelation 4:8-11

" The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying:

"Holy, holy, holy,

Lord God Almighty,

Who was and is and is to come!"

Whenever the living creatures give glory and honour and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders

fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:

"You are worthy, O Lord,

To receive glory and honour and power;

For You created all things,

And by Your will they exist and were created."

Even today in Heaven ... there are living choirs singing and praising God. And He deserves it.

Revelation 5:11-13

" Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice:

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain

To receive power and riches and wisdom,

And strength and honour and glory and blessing!"

And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying:

"Blessing and honour and glory and power

Be to Him who sits on the throne,

And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"

Psalms 34:1-3

"I will bless the Lord at all times;

His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

My soul shall make its boast in the Lord;

The humble shall hear of it and be glad.

Oh, magnify the Lord with me,

And let us exalt His name together.

Psalms 145:1-7

"I will extol You, my God, O King;

And I will bless Your name forever and ever.

Every day I will bless You,

And I will praise Your name forever and ever.

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;

And His greatness is unsearchable.

One generation shall praise Your works to another,

And shall declare Your mighty acts.

I will meditate on the glorious splendour of Your majesty,

And on Your wondrous works.

Men shall speak of the might of Your awesome acts,

And I will declare Your greatness.

They shall utter the memory of Your great goodness,

And shall sing of Your righteousness."

David was always praising God. Some of his whole psalms are praising God.
We can do the same ... praise for our whole prayer time.

Psalms 146:1-2

"Praise the Lord, O my soul!

While I live I will praise the Lord;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being."

Matthew 6:9

" In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven,

Hallowed be Your name."

Let me honour Your name, let me praise You.

What sort of things should we praise God for? His being Holy. Because He heals. Because He answers prayers. Because He is merciful. Because He is a loving Father to us. Because of His justice. Because He is the God of Peace. Because He is faithful. Because He is forgiving. Because He is the God of all comfort. Because He is our refuge and fortress. Because He is the God of Grace. Because He is patient. Because He is a provider ... who looks after His children. Because of His offer of salvation ... and because He is the Giver of Eternal Life.

Hebrews 13:15

" Therefore by Him **let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.**"

Hebrews 13:15 AMPLIFIED BIBLE

" Through Him, therefore, **let us constantly and at all times offer up to God a sacrifice of praise, which is the fruit of lips that thankfully acknowledge and confess and glorify His name.**"

Prayer should be the best time of the day. Are we good company to Him? Do we have interesting prayers to Him ... or are we just in a continual rut?

Philippians 4:4-8

" Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things."

Our minds shouldn't be focused on us in prayer. Noble things, pure things, lovely things, etc.

Let's make sure we give adequate time to praising God.

