

Teach Me to Pray Part 2

We talked last week about prayer. We concluded it's good to want to know how to pray according to the Bible. God has a lot to say about it. However, there is no need to follow a formula or get fancy. A heart felt "Help Me" is heard before the throne. Jesus taught us to pray to our Father Who is in Heaven for His will to be done on earth, to come boldly with your requests persistently, expecting God to give us good gifts when we ask and to not give up. James taught us to ASK, pray in faith, knowing our sincere, earnest prayers have power.

Now let's talk about what the Bible says about Who we ought to pray to.

There Is Only One Mediator

A mediator is one who seeks to reconcile, or make peace between, two opposing parties. In the Old Testament, man had not yet been reconciled to God through Jesus. The people needed a mediator, someone to intercede with God on their behalf. That is where we find people like Abraham and Moses pleading with God on behalf of others. For example, in Genesis 18:23–25, Abraham interceded with God on behalf of Sodom and Gomorrah:

Jesus is now seated at the right hand of the Father (Heb. 10:11-12), ever making intercession for us (Heb. 7:25). In 1 Timothy 2:5 we read, "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." I am not up here telling you there is a template to pray and a right way vs wrong way to pray. As we saw last week, God knows your heart and hears prayers prayed according to His will.

However, the Bible does have a lot to say about who to pray to.

You have noticed when Jesus taught his disciples how to pray, He was addressing God the Father. Yes, Jesus and God the Father are both God. And it would not make sense for Jesus to tell them to pray to Him since He always pointed to the Father in His ministry.

Take a look at Jesus High Priestly Prayer in John 17. Notice how it starts; John 17:1. He is praying to the Father. John 14:16 we see this again.

Right before He went to the cross, how did He instruct His followers to pray?

John 16:23-24, John 14:13-14 What does it mean to pray in Jesus Name? When I got married, I received the legal right to use my husband's name. I could write a check in the name "Mrs Edward Phillips" and that gave me the right and authority to what Ed had. When we become born-again, believing in our heart that Jesus paid our sin debt in full and confessing this with our mouth, we became baptized into the body of Christ. Just as I became a Phillips and I could use Ed's name, you became a Christian and can use Christ's name. That's what it means to pray in Jesus Name. You can come before the throne of God almighty because you carry His Name. You are coming through the atoning Blood. We get in a habit of ending our prayers, 'In Jesus Name, Amen' and there is nothing wrong with that but you don't have to say this in order to come in His Name.

1 John 5:14-15 As we come to know God, and our heart aligns with His, we will find ourselves praying for His will to be done. And when our requests align with His, we have His Word He will answer us.

The Holy Spirit provides the power for our prayers. Luke 24:49, Acts 1:8, 2 Tim 1:6-7

To add on to what we saw last week, scripture shows our prayers are to be directed to the Father through the cleansing sacrifice of Jesus. We are to be direct in our requests, not asking for our gain, but for God's will to be done. All of God is involved as we pray to our Father in the name of the Son by the power of the Spirit.