

Rhythm of a Praying Life

[Phl 2:9-11 ESV] 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

I. Intro

- A. To have a rhythm of prayer, we have to understand how to pray
- B. We may not understand the:
 - 1. Concept of Prayer (I am questions)
 - 2. Or the why of prayer (I have other questions)
- C. But, we can understand the "How" of prayer
- D. [Mat 6:5-15 ESV] 5 "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 6 But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. 7 "And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. 9 Pray then like this: "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 this day 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 evil. 14 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, 15 but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.
 - 1. Prayer is not for show, but is communication with God
 - 2. Prayer is not mindless, but interacting with the Divine nature of God with purpose
 - 3. Prayer is a declaration of your dependence on God, the sovereign ruler of all.
 - 4. Prayer is asking for something, and allowing for something in your own life
 - 5. Prayer is seeking forgiveness, and seeking the ability to forgive others
- E. Prayer is a walk into the Grace of God, while also becoming like Him in Grace

II. Text

- A. Every knee will BOW
- B. Every tongue CONFESS
 - 1. Every mouth, Every language
 - 2. The greek word here is glossa, literal definition language
 - 3. Applies in the same way, every person will eventually recognize Christ and confess Him as Lord.
 - a) Every person
 - b) Every Language
 - c) Every Tribe
 - d) Every Tongue
- C. Every person to ever have been created will eventually communicate with God, and acknowledge Him as savior.

III. Points

- A. Prayer is Personal
 - 1. [1Ch 4:10 ESV] 10 Jabez called upon the God of Israel, saying, "Oh that you would bless me and enlarge my border, and that your hand might be with me, and that you would keep me from harm so that it might not bring me pain!" And God granted what he asked.
 - 2. Paul prayed for the church, and ministry: [Eph 3:14-21 ESV] 14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, 16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be

strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith--that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. 20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

3. Paul thanks God for the church: [Phl 1:3-6 ESV] 3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. 6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.
4. A personal walk with God includes a personal communication with Him that is never turned off: pray without ceasing.

B. Prayer is Powerful

1. [Jas 5:13-16 ESV] 13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. 14 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. 15 And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. 16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.
2. The prayer of the righteous:
 - a) The greek word: dikaios
(1) Translated as righteous, just, upright
(2) This is only possible by grace through faith
(3) And is an expectation of a response to God
 - b) To be RIGHTEOUS, and to act RIGHTEOUS should go hand in hand
 - c) You cannot act righteous if you are not made righteous
 - d) But, you will respond in righteousness if you have been made righteous
3. The power of prayer is found in:
 - a) The walk of faith of the righteous
 - b) The response of faith in the righteous
 - c) The life lived by faith, approaching the God whom you believe in.
4. Prayer is powerful in belief: Believe and ask

C. Prayer is a Practice

1. Lets Pray:
 - a) Lets pray for things we know
 - b) Lets pray asking questions about how God is going to work
2. Prayer is at the simplest form communication with God:
 - a) Prayer can be a request
 - b) Prayer can be a thanksgiving
 - c) Prayer can be praise.
 - d) Prayer can be written
 - e) Prayer can be without words
 - f) Prayer can be a lament
 - g) Prayer can be a celebration
 - h) Prayer can be a question
 - i) Prayer is always a connection with God in faith
 - j) God hears the prayers of the saints, and it is a sweet fragrance to him.
 - (1) [Rev 8:1-4 ESV] 1 When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. 2 Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. 3 And another

angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel.

(2) Our prayers are with God!

3. Lets practice:

- a) Join in with the church in prayer today
- b) Can we ask God for direction?
- c) Can we marvel aloud, together at how God has worked?
- d) Can we seek for God's instruction?
- e) Can we pray for others to come to know Him?
- f) Can we ask God to remind us of His Grace?
- g) Can you pray for your involvement? Your stewardship of Time and Talent?
- h) Will you be open to getting involved in ministry? Small groups? Will you pray about it?
- i) Will you pray about giving to the cause of Christ? Helping to pay off the building?

IV. Close