

# PRAYER AS WORSHIP TO GOD

Matt.6:5-13

## INTRODUCTION:

- A. Jesus taught his disciples to pray Matt 6:5-13. The early disciples continued in prayer so it is self evident prayer is worship to God Acts 2:42
- B. One of the outstanding duties, privileges, and joys of the Christian's life is that of prayer to God.
- C. It is the Father's will that his children pray to Him 1Thess.5:17; Heb.4:16
- D. Prayer of a righteous man availeth much Jas.5:16
- E. Yet just because a person speaks words and directs those words to God does not necessarily mean they are worshipping God. They may indeed be vain words.
- F. Let's look at prayer as worship to God

## DISCUSSION:

### I. JESUS SET THE EXAMPLE FOR US BY PRAYING MUCH

- A. Jesus worshipped by praying and is our example 1Pet.2:21
  1. After his baptism Christ prayed Lk.3:21
  2. Before choosing the apostles, He went to mountain and prayed all night Lk.6:12
  3. When he sent the multitude away he went to the mountains apart and prayed Matt.14:23
  4. Got up before day and prayed Mk.1:35
  5. At the conclusion of his parting message to the disciples he prayed Jhn.17
  6. Prayed three times before his arrest Matt.26:36-46
  7. While dying on the cross he prayed Lk.23:34-46
- B. Surely no prayer less person can be a follower of Him who prayed so much

### II. THE EARLY CHURCH WORSHIPPED BY PRAYING AND GIVING THANKS Acts 2:42

- A. Church prayed for Paul in prison Acts 12:5
- B. Christians are admonished to pray
  1. Continue instant in prayer Rom.12:12
  2. Praying with all prayer and supplication Eph.6:18
  3. Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving Col.4:2
  4. Pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks 1Thess.5:17,18
  5. Supplications (a wanting, a need - an asking, entreaty), prayers (talking to God), intercessions (seeking the presence and healing of God on behalf of others), and giving of thanks (gratitude) be made for all men; 1Tim.2:1
- D. Many of the above passages show:
  1. The close inter-relation of prayer and thanksgiving
  2. That God is the giver all good and perfect gifts Jas.1:17
  3. Receiving blessings from God without giving thanks is to live on level of the hogs that eat the acorns under the trees and never look up to see where they come from

### III. GOD'S PROMISE TO ANSWER PRAYER IS CONDITIONAL

- A. May pray and not be heard (answered) Jas.4:3; Jhn.9:31
- B. Note the following conditions of acceptable prayer to God
  1. Be righteous 1Pet.3:12;
  2. Be obedient 1Jhn.3:22;
  3. Ask in faith Mat.21:22;
  4. Have forgiving spirit Mat.6:15
  5. Have the right motive in prayer Jas.4:3
  6. Pray in harmony with God's will 1Jhn.5:14
  7. Pray in Jesus name Jhn.14:13
- C. All these conditions must be adhered to for our prayers to be acceptable to God
- D. Posture is not a condition of acceptable prayer except as it indicates humility and submission
  1. Standing 1Ki.8:22;
  2. Bowing down Ps.95:6;
  3. Kneeling Acts 20:36;
  4. Falling on the face Matt.26:39;
  5. Lifting up the hands 1Tim.2:8
- E. Any posture that one might think appropriate for the occasion would be expedient as long as it is decent and in order 1Cor.14:40

### IV. THINGS FOR WHICH A CHRISTIAN SHOULD PRAY

- A. The forgiveness of sins Acts 8:22
- B. That we enter not into temptation Matt.26:41
- C. Daily necessities of life Matt.6:11
- D. For earthly rulers 1Tim.2:1,2
- E. The sick; Jas.5:14; Enemies Matt.5:44
- F. Laborers to enter the harvest Matt.9:38
- H. Pray for preachers and for Lord's word to be glorified 2Thess.3:1
- I. For all children of God Phil.1:9-11
- J. For God's will to be done Matt.6:10
- K. For kingdom to increase, not to come, its here Col.1:13

## CONCLUSION:

- A. The model prayer given by Jesus gives us an insight into prayer Matt.6:9-13 (1) It is addressed to God; (2) Gives adoration to God, (3) supplication for the Kingdom; (4) Petition for daily sustenance; (5) ask for forgiveness; (6) for deliverance from the evil one; and (7) contains an ascription of glory to God
- B. Prayer is not only the expression of gratitude and of need, the supply of which is sought of God, but is a high and beautiful expression of trust, submission, and union with God.
- C. If you are a child of God you have the privilege of prayer to God as your Father. If you are not a child of God then you can't address God as your Father and expect him to hear (answer) your prayer.