

THE PRAYER FACTOR PT3 - PRAYER IS POWERFUL

Scripture used: Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV)

OVERVIEW

Part 3 of "The Prayer Factor!" was a communal experience. Pastor Hurmon asked us all to practice prayer together. He reminded us again of the power of prayer, and laid out a weekly process for each of us to join him in praising, giving thanks, and then touching on each part of the "Our Father" prayer.

KEY POINTS

- 1) **The purpose of prayer is relationship with God.** Most of us miss this crucial fact. We forget that God sees us in our daily struggles, and deeply desires to connect with us. All we need to do is reach out to Him through studying the word and praying. With a prayerful life, we are finally able to build that all-important relationship. Prayer - relating honestly and consistently to God - is the only thing that can truly transform and redeem us.
- 2) **Follow a weekly sequence according to the "Our Father" prayer.**
 - a. Monday: Declare our praises. "Our Father, who art in heaven." We need to see God in all His glory. Part of this perspective involves who He is. We must find ways to express awe at His unequalled greatness. Here are ways we can develop a proper wonder for Him. Consider that:
 - i. He is eternal, without beginning or end.
 - ii. He created the entire universe in all its majesty.
 - iii. He knows all, the past, present, and future.
 - iv. He is ever-present, with me even in my darkest times and worst struggles.
 - b. Tuesday: Offer thanksgiving. "Hallowed by Thy name." The second perspective to help us see God's glory is to focus on what He has done for us. This includes big events over the years, and daily blessings we take for granted. Talk to God, thanking Him for:
 - i. Family, friends, loved ones.
 - ii. Life, health, strength.
 - iii. Food, clothing, shelter, transportation.
 - iv. Being rescued, delivered, and saved time and time again!
 - c. Wednesday: Pray for self & others. "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." We want God to establish His authority over our lives, and the lives of those we love. We want Him to bring the prosperity and justice of heaven to earth. That is what it means to have His kingdom come.
 - d. Thursday: Talk to God about provisions. "Give us this day, our daily bread." God always gives us what we truly need if we take the time to ask Him. But our focus must be clear. We are asking for the "daily bread" that lets us fulfill His daily purpose for us. Think of these provisions as the requirements to be an effective follower of Christ.
 - e. Friday: Ask God to forgive and to help me forgive. "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us." Most of us hold onto pains and hurts from the past. We never forgive, and so we expose ourselves. God won't forgive us if we don't forgive others.
 - f. Saturday: Ask God for wisdom and protection. "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." Don't just try to overcome temptation. Avoid it entirely! And ask for that same protection for your entire family.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - We need to consider two things before praying to God: who He is, and what He has done. When was the last time you truly praised God for his unequalled power? When was the last time you truly gave thanks to God for His many blessings in your life, both big and small?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Pastor Hurmon reminded us throughout this sermon series that the ultimate goal of prayer is knowing God better. Consider your relationship with God. Are you getting to know Him better?
- 3) **DO** - Pray daily for 10 minutes according to the above sequence. Challenge each other to follow through!