



HALLOWED BE THY NAME

This is part 3 of the PrayER – Learning From Jesus How To Pray sermon series

SUMMARY

God knew that as we make our way through life that there would be certain elements and circumstances that would come into our life that were simply greater than we are. His solution to the problems of our life was to make Himself and His resources available to His people. The means by which we can tap into the presence, the provisions, and the power of God is prayer, and yet, most of prayer lives are struggling to show any signs of life. In this series of thoughts, we are taking our prayer life to the emergency where we will learn from the Great Physician how to pray.

REVIEW

In week one, we looked at Luke 11:1 where we found the key statement for this entire series of thought – “*Lord, teach us to pray.*” We journeyed through the book of look as we considered the example of Christ’s prayer life.

In week two, we began to consider the recording of Christ’s teaching on prayer in Matthew chapter 6. We considered the introduction – “*Our Father which art in Heaven...*” and we found that when we pray, we should pray according to our **ADOPTION**, according to our Father’s **AUTHORITY**, and according to a right **AFFECTION**.

MESSAGE

Matthew 6:5-15 says, *“And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him. After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”*

If you're in the habit of marking things in the Word of God, I'd like to draw your attention to verse 9 where the Bible says, *“...Hallowed be thy name.”*

For a few moments, I'd like to consider this thought: **HALLOWED BE THY NAME.**

Last week, we considered the opening of this model prayer – *“Our Father...”* Now that we have entered into this time of prayer, we find that the content of our prayer is to be two-fold: the first part is focused on that which is **VERTICLE** (our relationship with God), and the second part is focused on that which is **HORIZONTAL** (our relationship with the world that is around us as well as the realities that are present within us).

By the way, they're meant to be given in that particular order: vertical then horizontal. But why? Is the order really that important? And the answer is “Yes, the order really is that important.” Why? Well, it boils down to the purpose of our prayer life. You see, prayer isn't just a means by which we tap into God's abundant resources for the terrible situations and for the very difficult struggles that are currently in our life. Now please don't misunderstand what I am saying. God has more than enough resources...

For every need that is in your life,

For every need that will come into your life, and

For every need that could possibly come into your life.

And, as our heavenly Father, He doesn't just want you and I to bring the issues of our life to Him, but He has made it possible for us to boldly come before His throne where we can make those needs known and where we can request His grace for our trouble.

Hebrews 4:15-16 says, *“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let*

us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

However, what we need to understand about prayer is that it is more than a help hotline and it is more than a get out of trouble card that we can play when things get overwhelming or when life doesn't seem to be going our way. The purpose of prayer is far greater than that.

Our prayer life is meant to exalt God for Who He is,

Our prayer life is meant to remind our heart of what God can do,

Our prayer life is meant to align our life with what God wants to do, and

Our prayer life is meant to express our trust in and to request help from the Lord for what God wants to do in and through our life.

Let me say it this way: our prayer life is designed by God to be a means by which we get our life back on track for our greatest purpose – the glory of God. And that moves us from the **OPENING** of prayer to the **OPPORTUNITY** of prayer. Now, what do I mean by that? Well, the Word of God is how God communicates to us today, and prayer is how we communicate to God. It's not just an opportunity for us to get something from God, but it is an opportunity for us to give something to God.

In Psalm 29, there was a set of circumstances in David's life (some have suggested that a major thunderstorm had come through and it was such an intense storm that it shook him to his core) Whatever the circumstance was, it drove him to his knees in prayer and he encouraged others to do the same. And here's how he prayed and he suggested that they pray:

Psalm 29:1-2 says, "Give unto the LORD, O ye mighty, give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness."

Three times in two verses, we are challenged to give God something in prayer: **GLORY**, **STRENGTH**, and **WORSHIP**. Prayer is an opportunity for us to acknowledge that God is great and that God is greatly to be praised.

As you study the prayers of the Bible, you will find individuals doing and encouraging others to exalt the Lord in prayer.

In Exodus 15:2, Moses sang the a prayer of praise: *"The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him."*

In Psalm 99:5, the Psalmist says, *"Exalt ye the LORD our God, and worship at his footstool; for he is holy."*

Again, in Psalm 99:9, the Psalmist says, *“Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the LORD our God is holy.”*

In Psalm 118:28, the Psalmist says prays, *“Thou art my God, and I will praise thee: thou art my God, I will exalt thee.”*

In Isaiah 25:1, Isaiah, prayed this prayer: *“O LORD, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth.”*

In John 12:28, our greatest example of prayer, Jesus, prayed, *“Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.”*

As we come back to Matthew chapter 6, Jesus says, when you pray, pray after this manner: *“Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name...”*

The word *hallowed* means “to set apart, or to regard as holy,” When you dig down into that word, you’ll find that it carries with it the idea of something that is a necessity. In other words, we are expected to recognize the holiness of God when we enter into His presence in prayer. It isn’t a **SUGGESTION**, it isn’t a **REQUEST**, it is a **COMMAND**.

Out of all that the Bible has revealed to us about God, only one of those attributes (characteristics) are repeated in triplet form in Heaven – holy.

Revelation 4:8 says, *“And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.”*

Day and night around the throne of God, you can hear the declaration – holy, holy, holy. Through prayer, we are given the opportunity to come before the throne of God. Don’t you think when we approach His throne in Heaven through prayer that we too should declare His holiness? Absolutely, we should.

The word *holy* means “to separate; to cut something in two so that the two sides are separate and distant from each other.” In prayer, we are to acknowledge that God is separated from, and that God is far above all of His creation (that includes us). When we say that God is holy, we are acknowledging that God is elevated above us, that He is distinct from us, and that He is superior to and over us in every way. It causes us to think about the royalty of God. As one enters into the presence of God, they will find that He is stunning, and staggering, and breathtaking in every way.

Jeremiah 10:6 says, *“Forasmuch as there is none like unto thee, O LORD; thou art great, and thy name is great in might.”*

1 Samuel 2:2 says, *“There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God.”*

Psalm 22:3 says, “...*thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.*”

When Jesus teaches us to pray, notice that the holiness of God is connected to the name, and by extension, the names, of God. You see, throughout the Bible, we find that God has revealed Who He is through a variety of names. He is our Shepherd, He is our Provider, He is our Protector, He is our Peace-giver, and He is our Healer, and the list goes on and on. It’s in the names of God that we find comfort, confidence, and courage to engage and to endure all that comes into our life.

Now, I think that the order of this prayer is very specific. Jesus says, when you pray, pray after this manner, “*Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name...*” Why that order? When we pray, we are to do so as a child that has complete and open access to God as our Father, but we must not forget that when we approach the throne of our Father that He is still almighty God. And, as such, we are to reverence Him for Who He is, we are to acknowledge His holiness, and are to recognize our position before Him.