

Principles of Prayer

Recent events in our nation have caused many believers to be concerned about the political direction of our country. When we are focused on earthly life, it is easy to be disturbed about unbiblical policies like socialistic redistribution of wealth, gay marriage, partial birth abortion, deep cuts in military, etc. Christianity is not earthly focused, it is spiritually focused. The early church flourished under anti-Christ governments that were very evil. The move to the left has motivated me to pray that God will expose the spiritual need in U.S.

Encouragement:

1. God is the Sovereign ruler of the universe 1Chron. 29:11; Ps.103:19

- He allows angelic & human volition to operate and still retains control
- He uses sin and evil to accomplish His own purposes – His glory

2. God is able to fulfill His promise of provision regardless of our national, economic condition - Phil 4:19

- Promise of logistical grace is unconditional

3. Everything God allows is for spiritual benefit – Rom 8:28; Jam 1:2-4

- Works everything for good – **agathos** – spiritual good
- God withholds earthly benefit to focus us on our spiritual needs

4. Earthly adversity motivates us to seek God's help – Heb 4:16

- Let us come boldly, openly, to speak plainly to the throne of grace so that we might acquire mercy and find grace in our time of need
- Time of need – earthly rulers who intend to implement evil policies

Prayer

1. God desires that we talk openly with Him about our personal needs.

Mt 6:11 – ask for daily bread – enough for today; Mat 7:7-11 Ask/given; seek/find; knock/opened; Jam 1:5 ask for wisdom; Heb 4:16 acquire mercy & find grace in need

Mt 6:8 God our Father knows our needs before we ask – so why does He want us to ask?

- a. Prayer for needs expresses our helplessness and dependence
- b. Prayer for needs reminds us of the source of our provisions
- c. Prayer for needs reminds us to accept & surrender to God's will
- d. Prayer for needs rejects self sufficiency, human ability

God allows us to have a “time of need” to remind us that we are helpless, dependent, that we can't provide for ourselves, that He has a will for our lives and that he is the source of all that is good in our lives.

2. God desires that we come before Him with confidence – Heb 4:16

Come boldly – **parresia** – boldly, speak openly, plainly & directly, assurance, confidence, freely, without fear
– He invites us, wants us to come to Him

- We come to a throne of grace, not a throne of Justice to be feared
- We come for grace – for His provision and to do His will
- We are given mercy and discover grace when we come in prayer
- In need of mercy – mercy is helping the helpless – come helpless

Jam 1:5 – ask wisdom – God who gives generously w/out reprimand **Oneidizo** – denounce, insult – God doesn't reprimand us for being needy and for not knowing how to apply the word to specific situations – ask Him

3. God desires that we ask privately & w/out manipulation Mt 6:5-8

Vs 5	Prayer to be seen	faith in praise of men	have your reward
Vs 6	Pray in private	faith in God	God will reward you
Vs 7	Vain repetitions	battalogo	continually repeat a phrase – pagans

- Superstition, magic formula – incantations that manipulate God to act
- Correct posture, tone of voice, King James words, sincerity voice, bargain

Vs 8 – God already knows our needs – wants us to ask Him for our needs

4. God desires that we persistent in prayer Lk 11:5-10; 18:1-8

Lk 11:5-10 **The Persistent Friend**

- Vs 1-4 Jesus teaching on prayer
 - Vs 5-7 Story of the persistent friend
 - Vs 8 Prayer answered because of persistence – **anaideia** – shameless, audacity, tenacious insistence, insensitive to boundaries of propriety
 - Go to your neighbors house at midnight is insensitive to boundaries
- a. God desires that we be shameless in persistence – insensitive to no answer
 - b. God wants us to keep asking over and over and over until He answers
 - c. Persistent believer doesn't give up when He isn't answered immediately
 - d. Persistence expresses faith in the rightness of the request.

Lk 18:1-8 **The Persistent Widow**

Vs 1 Parable – necessary to always pray and not lose heart

Ought – **dei** – necessary, beneficial, important – necessary for victory

- Jesus says that prayer is necessary for us to win in our spiritual lives
Lose heart – **egkakeo** – allow bad thoughts in; give in to evil - discouraged
- Fail to receive immediate answers – discouraged and give up on prayer

Vs 2-5 Widow & the Unrighteous Judge

Vs 5 Wear me out – **hupopiazo** – give a black eye; wear down

Vs 7 Continually cry out day and night – asking every day and every night

Vs 7-8 Will he delay? No he will bring justice quickly

Vs 8 Will Jesus find faith when He returns?

- a. Persistence is the expression of your faith in the rightness of your request.
- b. Persistence is the expression of your faith in God's faithfulness to answer
- c. Persistence is the expression of your faith in His integrity to His promise
- d. Delayed answer: time to examine your motives and the request
- e. As we persist, we might find reason to adjust our request as we seek God's will.