

Chapter 5

PRAYER

LBA Luke 3:21 And it came to pass that when all the people were baptized, Jesus was also baptized: and as He prayed, heaven was opened,

INTRODUCTION

Prayer is communion with the Father through Christ. It is also having and keeping the sky open. If only around these two aspects we turn our study, we would be able to find a great treasure for our lives. We can assure you that prayer is the key to the abundant spiritual life of the Christian, the Christian is: what he is in prayer.

Prayer also helps us to obtain what has been foreordained, since the predestined will come whether we ask for it or not.

This is an initial study on prayer as the revelation increases, however we wanted to give an introductory study as a basic foundation for the new Christian or the new student of the Word of God.

KJV Luke 6:12 It happened in those days that Jesus went out into the mountains to pray, and spent the whole night in prayer to God

I- TYPES OF PRAYER

A) PRAYER IN THE OUTER COURT

It is the prayer that only asks. His motto is "give me." We only present complaints, pains, needs of all kinds, the health of our body and all those things that are additions. We constantly ask God for them.

We do this prayer with the mind, with the natural light that is in the atrium. With them we approach God by putting our natural reasoning.

Matthew 6:32 For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; that your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

B) PRAYER IN THE HOLY PLACE

Prayer in the holy place is no longer just asking him, but we are grateful for what he gives us. There is praise produced by the Spirit in us, which is typified in the light produced by the oil in the lampstand, which enlighten our understanding with the Spirit helping us in our weakness and lack of adequate prayer for convenience.

R60 1 Corinthians 14:14 Because if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding remains unfruitful. 15 So? I will pray with the spirit, but I will also pray with the understanding; I will sing with the spirit, but I will also sing with the understanding.

Romans 8:26 And in the same way, the Spirit also helps us in our weakness; because we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with unspeakable groans; 27 But he who searches hearts knows what the intention of the Spirit is, because according to the will of God he intercedes for the saints.

This type of prayer guided by the Spirit, is in constant search of the will of the Lord, because he wants to please God.

Romans 12:2 And do not adapt to this world, but transform yourselves through the renewal of your mind, so that you can verify what the will of God is: what is good, acceptable, and perfect.

Therefore, he surrenders and surrenders himself to the Lord without reservation. When the soul is being ministered there are a series of obstacles for the Spirit, such as: the mind, feelings, complexes, and others. This is what hinders us from reaching consecration and therefore a life of constant prayer.

This prayer is the cry of our spirit with the help of the Holy Spirit to:

1) Being Clothed with Christ

Romans 8:22 Because we know that all creation groans together, one is already in labor pains until now; 23 and not only she, but also, we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

2) Receive His Image

Galatians 4:19 My little children, for whom I return to travail until Christ is formed in you,

3) Know the mysteries of Christ

Luk 8:10 And he said: "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to others, in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.

4) Obtain complete redemption, that is, the glorification of our body

2 Corinthians 3:18 Therefore, we all, looking openly as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord, are transformed from glory to glory in the same likeness, as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Finally, with prayer in the holy place we recognize what Christ did for us on the cross, but we also recognize what he does and will do, if we let him work.

Colossians 1:27 To these, God has wanted to make known what the riches of the glory of this mystery among the nations are, which is: Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28 We proclaim him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

C) PRAYER IN THE HOLY PLACE

It is worship and intercession.

1) WORSHIP

It is the rejoicing in the Spirit for what He is, no longer for what He gives us or will give us, but for what He is. It is a prayer in the Spirit, no longer with the help or assistance of the Spirit but immersed in the Spirit. The glory of the Shekinah, the light of his presence is manifested, and it is then that worship has its place.

Revelation 1:10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a great voice like a trumpet,

2 Corinthians 12: 1 I must boast, although it is not profitable. However, I will turn to the visions and revelations of the Lord. 2 I know a man in Christ, who for fourteen years - if in the body, I don't know; if it were from the body, I don't know; God knows - he was caught up to the third heaven.

2 Corinthians 12: 4 that he was raptured to paradise, where he heard ineffable things that man is not allowed to express.

2) INTERCESSION

Intercession is pleading, pleading for another person, mediating for him (here we forget ourselves). It is insistently asking for something that is extremely important to us. It is the prayer of surrender for others, and it is the product of having contemplated the glory of God.

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

Intercession is not a simple prayer of "bless brother Lord, love" but rather, a total dedication in prayer for those we love. Paul describes it this way:

Galatians 4:19 My little children, for whom I return to travail until Christ is formed in you.

This prayer is always attended because it is in accordance with the feeling of the Holy Spirit, who is the one who translates his feelings in us as labor pains, because He is to form Christ in us. That is your task. Moses in the bush was called to intercede. When he saw that the bush burned and was not consumed, God allowed him to see His glory and therefore he became the intercessor of Israel.

Christ our High Priest, intercede for us. Where is he interceding for us? In the Holy of Holies! This is where His intercession on our behalf takes place.

Romans 8:34 Who is the one who will condemn? Christ is the one who died; more than that, he is the one who was also resurrected; who, moreover, is at the right hand of God, and who also intercedes for us.

Hebrews 4:14 Having, then, a great high priest who has transcended the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our faith.

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our infirmities, but one who has been tempted in everything like us, but without sin.

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with confidence so that we may receive mercy, and may we find grace for timely help.

II- FORM TO PRAY

In the Bible we can see that there are several ways to pray. One of them is in a group. This way of praying is when the church or congregation makes fervent prayer to God in unity.

Acts 12: 5 So Peter was kept in jail; but the church prayed unceasingly to God for him.

It also occurs at the level of discipleship. Another way is two or more people agreed by a specific request. And the other way is individual, personal, alone or in secret. When we pray, let us consider that:

IS PERSONAL

Matthew 6: 5 *"When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to pray standing in synagogues and on street corners, to be seen by men. I swear you that they have already got their reward.*

GOD LOVES THE TRUTH IN THE INTIMATE

Matthew 6: 6 *But you, when you pray, go into your room, close the door, and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.*

PRAYER IS NOT A LEARNED RITE

Matthew 6: 7 *And when praying, do not use vain repetitions, like the Gentiles, who think they will be heard for their talk.*

IT IS TO TALK WITH GOD

Matthew 6: 8 *Therefore, do not become similar to them, because your Father knows what things you need before you ask him.*

THERE IS A MODEL OF PRAYER

Luke 11: 1 *It happened that Jesus was praying in a place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him: Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.*

This way of praying is learned, the disciples asked the Lord to teach them to pray. The reason they asked is because they saw the fruit of their communion with the Father. The Lord's Prayer, as it is commonly known, is nothing but a model, a light about what we should really consider when we begin to pray. That is why the Lord insisted that it was not a matter of repeating it, because that would be vain, without fruit, it was a matter of understanding it, it was a matter of understanding the message behind that prayer. Let's see:

I. Our Father: He talk to us about **My kinship** The relationship that I have with the Lord is an acknowledgment that we are children of God. Because Jesus did not call him My Father, but Our Father.

None in the Old Testament; neither Moses who saw God face to face, nor Abraham, nor Isaac, nor Joseph, nor Jacob, not even Elijah who left without seeing death, had the privilege of knowing or living this relationship with God. With this phrase we realize two situations: first that we are children of God and second that he is the Father not only mine but also His and of everyone who has recognized Christ as savior.

II. Who are in heaven: shows us where God is and reveals to us **My vision**. Our vision is as the scripture says

Colossians 3: 2 *Set your mind on things above, not on things on earth;*

Where is our gaze really set? Let us understand that our vision is to know that everything that is going to come to us will come from above. It will not depend on our contacts, or our influences, if it is given to us it is because God has allowed it. Even if there is a crisis, the children of God are not going to go through it, that is why our vision must be above, our eyes have to be in heaven, because where our treasure is, there will be our heart.

III. Hallowed be thy name: He talk to us about **My Nature**, and that refers us to Holiness, because That is our nature, that is why the scripture says, "He who is in Christ is a new creature."

Before knowing God, we entrusted ourselves to the saints and to how many things man has invented as substitutes for God, to achieve his virtues or qualities, but now we have understood that the qualities of a pure, virgin, mature and unblemished church are implicit in our new spiritual nature. Our nature and surname are Church of Christ. So, spiritually speaking in our veins runs the blood of Jesus Christ, our elder brother who makes us saints. Holiness is already in our nature and the Holy Spirit is going to be guiding and teaching us to keep us as a mature church worthy of being taken in the rapture.

2 Corinthians 5:17 *So if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation: old things have passed away; behold, they are all made new.*

IV. Thy kingdom come: Marks us **My position**. We are invoking a kingdom to come, and we know that whoever rules in a kingdom is a KING. And JESUS is our King, and we are his servants. We are all servants, subjects of God. And just as the King is, so will the Kingdom be. Let King Jesus rule: if we let the Holy Spirit guide our hearts, then we will be like the King is. When things do not go well it is because we do not pray well, we must invoke the kingdom of God to come. Let our King Jesus reign in our kingdom, our family, church, work, our own life.

V. Thy will be done indicates **My surrender**. We must be willing for God to do his will in us, so that things turn out well for us, because he says in the scripture.

Matthew 10:29-31 *Are not two sparrows sold for a quarter? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father allowing it. And even the hairs on your head are all numbered. So do not fear; you are worth more than many sparrows.*

This indicates that He knows us personally and has a wonderful plan for each of us. God has us the best future we can imagine, but we must do his will.

There is a specific place, there is a church, there is a specific talent for us to develop and that by God's will is for our blessing. When we do not walk in the place or the path that God marked out for us, there is no blessing. When we confess: **Thy will be done**. It is hard but the results are worth it, the best example is Jesus who was obedient to his father's will until death, and in Gethsemane he confessed: Father, your will be done and not mine.

VI. on earth as it is in heaven: What this phrase of this beautiful prayer implies is that just as things are done in heaven, they are done on earth because the Sovereign God is to be glorified on earth as it is in heaven. God's plan is to carve us into his hand to make us equal to his beloved son, equal to Christ.

VII. "Give us today our daily bread: This verse speaks of **My provision**. We can ask for the blessing every day, however, God can send us all the blessing at once, and it is worth asking him for the provision for the whole year, but God tests us, because some prepare, and others do not to receive the blessings. That is why God sends us the tests to prepare us so that we have the maturity to receive the blessings. **The tests are not only of suffering, but also of good things**, God is going to give us better things, but he is going to test us. We must humble ourselves when God gives us good things. We must listen to the voice of God. When God tells us to do something and is blessing us, that is when we should pay attention to him the most. **Luke 16:10 He who is faithful in very little is also faithful in much.**

Let's be faithful to the blessings that God gives us.

VII. "And forgive us our debts as we have also forgiven our debtors: this verse teaches us about **My law of Sowing and Harvesting**. The Lord teaches us about the Universal Law of Sowing and reaping, and one of the consequences of this is forgiveness. Because we may have to forgive or ask for forgiveness. One of God's disciples who had a hard time forgiving was Peter, and until he failed and received God's forgiveness, he was able to understand and forgive those who failed him. Jesus preached about forgiving those who

Matthew 18:21 *Then Peter came to him and said, "Lord, how many times will my brother sin against me that I should forgive him?" Up to seven times? 22 Jesus * said to him: I do not tell you up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.*

Let us forgive to be forgiven.

VIII. "And do not lead us into temptation: This is **My request**. We ask God to free us from temptation, not to allow us to fall into temptation.

Proverbs 24:16 because the righteous fall seven times; and get up again

So we have the assurance that if we fall the Lord will raise us up and the Bible also says

1Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has come upon you that is not common to men; and faithful is God, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you can bear, but with the temptation will also provide the way of escape, so that you can resist it.

The word of God also says that **He frees the just from temptation**. Our Creator knows that we are weak and that we fail and understands us. If we fall, let's get up and move on, but let's try to the blood not to fall into sin and flee from temptation, because God always gives a way out.

IX. more deliver us from evil: This is **My hope**, the hope we have of being delivered from evil. Let us ask God to free us from all danger, from all snares of the devil, from all work of darkness that wants to operate in us and against us, and we ask this in intercessory prayer for us or our family. Let us separate ourselves from evil, so that it has no power or right over us.

X. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever: This is **My adoration**. The Lord teaches us to worship the Father. He ends this prayer with the adoration that is Universal. Our God is adorable and even Jesus his son understands that everything that breathes Praises Jehovah and adores him. He recognizes that The Kingdom is of the Father, the Universal Kingdom, and the Power that is eternal is also his, because our God is Everlasting and Almighty and the Glory belongs to him forever and ever. He alone is worthy of everything because everything is his making. What Jesus teaches us with this prayer is to be like Him, to learn to pray with the knowledge of who we are. In this Prayer then we learn:

1. That we have a Relationship with God.
2. What should we have a vision to get closer to God.
3. That we are now part of a New Nature.
4. That we occupy a Position to be servants and Christ is the King
5. That the Surrender of our being is what God expects.
6. That we are to obtain His image to become like Christ.
7. That our Provision comes from God.
8. There is a Sowing and harvesting law, which is always fulfilled.
9. Our Petition must always be that temptation does not overcome us.
10. Our Hope is that evil does not come near us.
11. That Worship is what God expects to receive from us each day.

III- WHAT TO OVERCOME IN PRAYER

A) Renewal of the Understanding

We must renew our mind to understand God and his ways, removing and overcoming our reasoning.

Romans 12: 2 Do not conform to this world; rather, transform yourselves by the renewal of your understanding, so that you see what the will of God is, good, agreeable and perfect.

We must cleanse the mind of all malice and then we will not be hindered in prayer with thoughts alien to God and distracting us.

Ephesians 6:16 Above all, take up the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the fiery darts of the evil one.

We must clear our conscience. This is achieved with constant personal application of the blood of Christ so as not to be accused and hampered for not being worthy, for not being prepared or for feeling guilty before God.

Titus 1:15 All things are pure to the pure, but to the corrupt and disbelievers nothing is pure; for even his mind and conscience are corrupted.

There are several passages in the Bible that speak to us of the possibility of being attacked to the mind with darts, accusations, slanders, and vituperations guided by the devil to the children of God. God allows this attack because many times only in this way do we renew our minds, when we see the serious situation or in the most difficult moments we cry out and diligently seek submission to the Lord.

James 4: 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God; Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Luke 10:19 Behold, I give you the power to trample serpents and scorpions, and over every force of the enemy, and nothing will harm you.

Zechariah 3: 1 He showed me the high priest Joshua, who was standing before the angel of Jehovah, and Satan was at his right hand to accuse him.

B) PERSEVERANCE

It is having self-discipline guided by the Holy Spirit (Luke 11: 5-13; 18: 1-8). Perseverance is waiting on God, walking by faith and not by sight. If we don't persevere in prayer, we can leave God with the answer ready to give it to us. We must overcome laziness, impatience, inconstancy, which are some of the enemies that prevent us from persevering in prayer.

C) WEAKNESS AND FATIGUE

Heaviness of mind, distraction, depression, and even sadness. In Gethsemane the disciples were seized by deep sadness and heaviness, and instead of helping with their prayer they fell asleep.

Luke 22:45 When he got up from prayer, and came to his disciples, he found them sleeping because of sadness.

This happens frequently, but we must overcome the authority that we have; because most of the time they are spirits who want to hinder us before God. Other times our stagnant soul takes weakness. In personal prayer this situation is extremely important to overcome, and the Lord is there to always give us victory.

D) KNOW GOD'S WILL

There is a barrier that prevents us from knowing God's will for our life. Also, here the Lord wants to make us victorious.

If we want to please the Lord, if we want to change what is changeable or know His will, we are going to ask and seek what He wants to change in us.

The one who allows himself to be guided, what he wants is to be pleasing to the Lord. Anyone who has the Holy Spirit will find that the desire of the Spirit is that we know his will and then live it every day. We should ask and receive only if it is according to God's desire and not ours. For this there must be a profound change in us, there must be a change of mind and attitude (metanoia).

It was in Gethsemane (place of crushed olives), where Christ asked the father to do his will. It is in our Gethsemane where we will ask the Father to do his will. If things change in heaven, they will surely change on earth (Matthew 6:10). This was the feeling of the model of prayer that the Lord left for his disciples in the Our Father Prayer. If God's will be for things in heaven to change for us, we must find out.

CONCLUSIONS

1. We must pray to maintain communion with the Father and that heaven is open to us.
2. We must know the will of the Father and that can only be achieved through prayer.
3. We must pray to change the changeable, and to obtain the foreordained.
4. We must let the Spirit be the one to lead us to the Shekinah of God.
5. There is a model of prayer that we must follow so that our prayers are heard, note that it is to follow the model, not repeat it.
6. Prayer is not vain repetitions because they do not go anywhere, prayer is our own expressions and comes from our hearts that carry the intention of communicating with the Father.

