

Praying Like Jesus (Part 2)

Isaiah 43:1-7, But now thus says the Lord, He who created you, O Jacob, He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in My eyes, and honored, and I love you, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life. Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you. I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring My sons from afar and My daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is called by My name, whom I created for My glory, whom I formed and made."

Revelation 4:6-11, and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal. And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!" And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who is seated on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things, and by Your will they existed and were created."

Who's throne? God's throne. Why was mankind created? For God's glory and by His will. You know how long He's been ruling?

- **Psalm 29:10**, "The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever."
- **1 Chron. 29:9-14, 16**. David understood - I'm not really the King - God is the King.
- **1 Chron. 29:23** It's all the Lord's throne. God has given these men authority. It's ultimately, God Kingdom and His rule. He rules through these men, but he can plant and pluck. Put in and take out.

- God's kingdom was from the beginning. Ruled Egypt through Pharaoh. Ruled Babylon through Nebuchadnezzar. Ruled Persia through Cyrus. Greece through Alexander. Rome through Emperors. Ruled Israel through the Kings. But through that particular line of David would come a Son. You know who He is and here's what the King taught concerning prayer:

Matthew 6:9-13 "Pray then like this: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.'"

Do you remember Jesus' pattern of prayer before major events? Look again. Do you see how it all has a "kingdom theme" to it?

- We considered Jesus' pattern of prayer before major events (Baptism; Wilderness; Starting His ministry; Picking the 12 apostles; Transfiguration; Last night with His disciples; Before the crucifixion; During the crucifixion; His final ascension).

Or the passages I referenced (**James 1; 3; and 4**).

- Wisdom from above or earthly wisdom. Acting like a child of God or demonic. It's all hitting the spiritual realm. The things in which we said we needed wisdom - they have to do with the spiritual (our roles in marriage, parenthood and in the world). We were talking about how we are to behave. We're talking about being children of faith.

Look at what else we learn from Jesus' prayers:

- **Matthew 6:44**, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."
- **Matthew 6:1-15** - Don't do it to be seen. Don't heap up empty phrases. Pray in such a way so that you will be forgiven.
- Prays for children (**Mark 10:13-16**)
- Jesus prays for Peter (**Luke 22:31-34**)

Brethren, before we go on, I hope we understand something. At the end of the day, we should ultimately be concerned about God's kingdom and His will. What is it that God wants? What is acceptable and good to Him?

Brethren, I don't want to go too far and misrepresent God. Listen, God has blessed us beyond what we need and we should thank Him for that.

- **Deuteronomy 8** - He blessed Israel beyond what they needed. Houses, vineyards, milk and honey, wells, livestock, and yes . . . silver and gold.
- Men like Abraham and Job had more than what is needed.

- When David's son, Solomon, was asked by God what he wanted, he asked for wisdom. God acknowledged how he didn't ask for long life, riches or the life of his enemies. So, He gave him wisdom, riches and honor above all kings.
- God knows how He made us - we long for food and clothing. Jesus prays for daily bread! He knows this.
- **Matthew 7:7-11**, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!"
 - Jesus also used this illustration in **Luke 11** about a man who's guest was arriving, but he had no food and was helped by his neighbor because he was persistent.
- **James 5:13-17** speaks of a scenario where a man decides to move into a town for a year and make a profit. No problem with that - James is just saying, you should be saying, "If the Lord wills, we will do this or that."
- **Luke 18:1-8** Jesus gives a parable to the effect to always pray and not lose heart. Here a woman was seeking justice from her adversary and gets it from a wicked judge. God isn't wicked and He cares about what's going on in your life. He will give justice to His elect.
- However, let me ask you something. How do you feel after I read this passage and what do you hear?
 - **Psalm 37:3-4**, "Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness. Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart.
 - What's your desire?
 - **1 Timothy 6:17-19** "As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life."
- Listen to Jesus:
 - **Matthew 6:31**, "Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' Or 'What shall we drink?' Or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek

after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

- Luke 12:32-34, "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Brethren, so many times we struggle to know what to pray for, but yet Jesus makes it pretty clear. Take a look at the majority of prayers in the Bible - it's Kingdom talk.

You never have to wonder what God will say in Kingdom prayers. This isn't a copout - it's called spiritual maturity. The more you learn about Christ and grow closer to God - you'll see a change in your prayers. You'll find more delight in Kingdom prayers, because they're more powerful and on point. Don't ever wonder what God will say when you ask . . .

- Lord, I believe, but help my unbelief.
- Lord, help your people know the depth and riches of your love.
- Strengthen my wife's heart as she serves you and our family.
- Help my brother to fight against the evil one.
- Help me to be more patient with my children.
- Help us to represent your son at work.
- Guide us to be a light in our neighborhood.
- Help us in our study.
- Help us in prayer.
- Give us wisdom.
- Let us have a heart of benevolence.
- Help me to be more righteous: kind, loving, good, gentle, focusing on the good.

Do you need me to go on? You know what God says to this kind of thing? Yes . . . every time.

"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of Him." 1 John 5:13-15. Is His will good enough? Are you satisfied with that answer?