CONCLUSION: The prayer that glorifies God comes from children who say: Father hollowed be your Name"

1. Can you address God as your Father?

   God has three kinds of children.
   a) His Only-Begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ
   b) Those who are called His children by Creation Job 1:1-2
   c) Those who are called into God's family by Adoption

2. Evidences of childhood by adoption

   1. Coming to Christ Jn 1:12
   2. Being transformed by Christ I Pe 1:17
   3. A change of priorities Mt 16:24-25
   4. A change of desires evidenced at the very core of our prayer life: "hollowed be your Name"

NEXT TIME, we will consider some more details about this pattern of prayer whose priority is "The Glory of God"

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9:30 AM * SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00 AM * MORNING WORSHIP
6:00 PM * EVENING WORSHIP

WEDNESDAY:
7:00 PM * PRAYER MEETING

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"…HAVING BEEN BUILT ON THE FOUNDATION OF THE APOSTLES & PROPHETS, JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF BEING THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE…"
EPHESIANS 2:20

AUGUST 3, 2008

The Priority of the Glory of God #6
In our prayer life (1)

Introduction: few things define better where our hearts really are, like our prayer life

An honest disclaimer: I cannot speak about prayer without first telling you that I feel completely inadequate

Our series on the priority of the Glory of God brings us now to the area of prayer, and I would like to start by turning to Luke 11:1-13

I - An Interest Generated by Jesus' Example of Prayer

Luke 11:1 And it came about that while He was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples."

Context: One of the characteristics of this central portion in the Gospel Luke – comprised between chapters 10 and 16 – is that it is really difficult to determine context and transitions.

a) The disciples saw Jesus pray **frequently** & **extensively**
Lk 6:12, **Lk 9:28**, **Mk 6:46**

Practical Note: praying is one of genuine love to God, fervency and faith

b) **John the Baptist had taught his disciples to pray**. It was expected that a teacher would teach his disciples to talk to God. `

Let me add another practical and pastoral note: if Jesus prayed frequently, why don't we? It is either because we do not know God nor do we have desires for Him, or because we do not know the magnitude of our need and frailty.

II - Secondly, from Jesus' answer we see how the Glory of God must be a priority in our prayer life

2 And He said to them, "When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be your name. your kingdom come.

a. Jesus didn't lecture the disciples on prayer. He simply told them "when you pray say..."

b. The Lord assumed that his disciples pray: "*when* you pray..."
Illust.: Acts 9:11

There is not a word said about how long we ought to pray. Length in prayer is not necessarily the measure of our spirituality. Cf. **Mt 23:14.**

c. Jesus taught the disciples to have the correct priorities in prayer
'Father, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. 3 'Give us each day our daily bread. 4 'And forgive us our sins … And lead us not into temptation.'

I can't help but marvel at the depth and simplicity of the Lord Jesus. Only God could speak that way.

d. Is this a pattern of a prayer or a prayer to be repeated?

Against mindless repetition: Mt 6:7-8 "…do not use meaningless repetition, as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. 8 "Therefore do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need, before you ask Him."

e. Discipline, Routine & Delight: The prayer that has the Glory of God as a priority, is not and cannot be, a routine exercise done out of a sheer sense of duty and discipline.

Comp **I Pe 4:7** Prayer is the result of having a sober mind about the transient nature of our lives, and our utter helplessness.

Jesus answer reveals that prayer is talking to our Father in heaven, and it is at this very point that we must ask ourselves a crucial question in regards to this subject of the prayer which has the Glory of God as its priority: **Is God really my Father?**