

Theme: Ask wisely. Ask boldly. Ask constantly. Ask – because He is good!

Background: Prayer that is simple, intimate and rooted in the coming Kingdom.

Introduction: Who taught you to pray? Who have you asked?

I. The *Heart of Prayer* - Passion

A. Worship the Father

1. We come to a Father – Intimacy/Nearness (Immanence)
 - Approaching him as “children” (sons/daughters)
 - Through our union with Christ, the eternal Son.
2. Hallowed be your name – Holiness/Separateness (Transcendence)
 - a. Acknowledge the Greatness of God
 - creature/creator distinction
 - b. His *Name* can’t be more holy
 - Angels know Him better – and they sing endless hallelujahs!
 - We “hallow” (sanctify, honor) His name

B. Seek His Kingdom – Your Kingdom Come

1. What *is* and what *will be*
 - a. His Kingdom is a present reality
 - Christ *has* come
 - Kingdom of Grace has entered hearts/lives
 - b. A future reality
 - The Kingdom of Glory is yet to come
 - Looking for the fulfillment of Revelation 11:15

NOTE: Kingdom of Grace and Kingdom of Glory are not different in nature or substance – but only in degree.

- c. We live “in between” times (Romans 8:9-23)
2. An *Urgent* Prayer – Finish your work!
 - a. In me - Kingdom needs before *my* needs – otherwise I pray, “My Kingdom come”
 - b. In this world
 - delaying only long enough to gather his children
 - c. Lord, come!
 - Live in readiness, in light of His return! (1 Corinthians 15:58; 1 Peter 3:8ff)

C. Trust His Provision

1. My physical needs – “Daily” bread (v.3)
 - a. “Tomorrow’s” bread?
 - Not just in physical sense – but more “food for the Lord’s tomorrow” (Hebrews 6:4?)
 - b. Turning to God for *today’s* needs
 - 1) Trusting him to give what is needed – each day
 - Putting us in place of dependency on Him
 - 2) What do we do with “today”?
 - Having all the food in the world, without Christ?
 - 2 Corinthians 6:2

2. My Spiritual needs (Spiritual Provision) (v 4a)
 - a. Forgiveness needed!
 - Not forgiven *because* we forgive others.
 - b. Forgiveness granted
 - To me – because of Christ’s sacrifice and God’s faithfulness
 - Through me – because I cannot lay the weight of judgment, unforgiveness on others (John 13:35; 1 John 4:10,11))

D. Seek His Protection (Lead us not into temptation)

1. It does not mean:
 - a. God does the tempting. God does not tempt us. (James 1:13)
 - He permits sin – He doesn’t promote it!
 - Tries our faith/grace – but doesn’t stir up sin
 - b. God is the author of/responsible for sin
2. It does mean:
 - a. **He guards us from being overcome by temptation**
 - b. Whether from within (James 1:14; Jeremiah 17:9)
 - Our own hearts are the greatest tempters!
 - c. Or from without – from Satan (Matthew 4:3; 1 Peter 5:8)
3. A prayer for faith (1 Peter 5:9 – “resist him, firm in your faith”)

II. The *Heat* of Prayer - Perseverance

- A. Persistence (impudence, shamelessness) - Who would do this??
- B. Confidence
 1. Keep on asking, seeking, knocking. Notice progression becomes more intense
Leads to:
 2. Receiving – finding – doors opening

III. The *Hope* of Prayer - Power

- A. A Father’s Love
 1. A natural father’s love?
 2. Heavenly Father’s love ?

NOTE: God answers prayers of His children, those who seek Him - ***because He loves them!*** He gives them the best gift of all.

B. The Holy Spirit

1. *Gives* the Holy Spirit.
 - And not just at Pentecost
 - Marks us, seals us, fills us
2. Work of the Spirit
 - Stretches from creation to the final resurrection
 - Every prayer will be answered by the power of the Spirit

IV. Will You Pray?