

III. SHARING YOUR NEEDS WITH GOD:

Notice in the way that Jesus taught us to pray, the first three petitions are all concerned about God: His name, His kingdom and His **will** (6:9-10). The second set of three requests flow out of this and are about our human needs for:

- A. **Food** (day-by-day providence): our Heavenly Father knows how to give His children good gifts

- B. **Forgiveness**: We are prone to **wander** from God and fall into sin. This affects our relationship and ability to share anything with a holy [hallowed] God and effects the way we treat **others**! A debtor is someone who has offended another and owes them grace, not just money.

- C. **Future** guidance: we are **committing** ourselves and whatever lies ahead of us. God does not tempt us, **Satan** does, but asking him to lead us in right paths will keep us from falling!

CONCLUSION:

James (4:2-3) urges us to ask, reminding us we have not because we ask not. He also teaches us that we ask and do not receive because we ask with wrong motives, **selfishly**, not according to God's will. What a Father we have in heaven! What a **Friend** we have in Jesus! What a Future we have led by the Spirit. So, pray when you feel like it, pray when you **don't** feel like it and pray **until** you feel like it!

VERTICAL Talking With God

Talking With God About Your Needs Dr. Chris Gnanakan

INTRODUCTION

- A. How's your calling plan with God? Ever feel like your vertical voicemails go unheard or unanswered? Praying is talking *with* God. It is not a mindless ritual, it is a meaningful relationship. It is the heart of a child relating to the heart of a Father.

- B. In this series I will teach you how to talk *with* God. These messages will be based primarily on the model prayer in Matthew 6:9-13 where Jesus said,

*"9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
10 Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
11 Give us this day our daily bread.
12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen."*

In this model prayer, Jesus teaches us how to talk *with* God.

- C. Come and learn through these messages how to have real and meaningful conversations with God:

August 10	Five Good Reasons To Talk With God
August 17	The First Thing To Say To God
August 24	What To Say To God When You've Messed Up
TODAY	Talking With God About Your Needs
September 7	Unanswered Prayer?
September 14	The Ultimate Prayer Request
September 21	Praying The Scriptures

- D. **TEXT:** Matthew 6:5-8 (Pew Bible/Pg.5/New Testament)

TALKING WITH GOD ABOUT YOUR NEEDS

The model prayer is a prayer **list**.

- **P**raise and thanksgiving.
- **R**epent of sin.
- **A**sk God to meet your needs and the needs of others.
- **Y**ield to the will of God.

Communication is the key and the **building block** for all relationships, and so it is with our relationship with God, our Father. Prayer is **two-way** communication. Normally God speaks to us when we read His **Word**. Generally we talk to God in prayer and must make and take the **time** (we won't just find it) to be **holy** and talk oft with our God. Jesus taught his followers to, "Ask, and to keep on Asking!"

"7 Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened." Matthew 7:7-8

I. JESUS' TEACHING ON "ASKING"

Jesus emphasized the **need** for and practice of praying. Prayer was proportionate to spiritual **power**! We ought always to pray and not faint (Luke 18:1). He questioned the **motives** as to why believers pray? He condemned wrong **methods** - high-sounding **lengthy** prayers, vain meaningless **babblings** and even prayers that are directed to **impress** people and not to get through to God and God alone! Jesus understood and demonstrated to his followers how prayer is a **means** of [divine] grace that enables us to do his will and develop our relationship with our Father!

II. THE (LORD'S) **DISCIPLE'S** PRAYER:

Christian prayer is not **primarily** about us talking to God about our **personal** needs, yet it is an essential aspect of prayer. Addressing God as '**Father**' (Rom. 8:15) indicates we can and ought to share our heart's desires with Him. Yet we must **keep** in mind that God knows what we **need** (and greed) **before** we ask (6:8)! While we have free **access** and freedom to ask, we must carefully cultivate intimacy and not take his **presence** for granted. We can take everything to God's throne of grace in prayer!