

THE LORD'S PRAYER - Part II The Perception of Prayer

Text: Matthew 6:9b

Key Word: Prayer

Key Thought: Prayer Will Bring out Our Perception of the Lord

What we believe about someone or something can make all the difference in the world. This is so true when we deal the second part of the Lord's prayer. Jesus knew the importance of hallowing the name of God when it comes to prayer. **This is the entrance point of our prayer.** We do not hallow God after we've prayed but rather at the beginning of our prayer - before we ask for anything we must appreciate the One Who we are approaching.

The word "**hallowed**" is the Greek verb "**hagiazesthai.**" This word is linked with the word "**hagios**" which means "**to treat a person or thing as holy, different, or separate.**" If a building was considered as being "**hollowed**" then its existence was different than that of a common building. A sanctuary is a case in point.

A priest was considered as "**hallowed**" because he was to keep himself separated from other men. His daily duty would keep him within the confines of the temple thereby isolating his interaction with others. He stayed in the presence of God. This same thought is used in reference with names. A "**hallowed name**" is one that is treated differently from other names. God's name has been given a position which is far above any other name in our world.

This prayer begins by setting our **Perception** in its proper place. God's name is to be treated much differently that any other name. His name is uniquely above every other name.

*"Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
10. that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
11. and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is
Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*

Philippians 2:9-11

One other important difference to note in Hebrew names is that their names also speak of the nature, character and personality of the individual. The name of God tells us a vast amount of information.

"Those who know your name will trust in you,"

Psalm 9:10

Therefore when we pray, "**Hallowed be your name**" we are saying "enable us to give You the unique place of which Your nature and character both deserve and demand." We must always remember that we are praying to God who is in heaven. This in itself can help maintain an attitude of reverence and respect when we approach God in prayer. If our Perception of God is off, so will our prayers be.

It should also go without saying that God is not confined to heaven alone. King Solomon in his great wisdom recognized the fact that God was uniquely over and in all things.

"But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built."

I Kings 8:27

The prophet Isaiah also witnessed to this fact when he wrote,

"This is what the LORD says: 'Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house you will build for me? Where will my resting place be?'"

Isaiah 66:1

A correct **Perception of God** is shown

- I. IN OUR THOUGHTS**
- II. IN OUR SPEECH**
- III. IN OUR ACTIONS**

I. IN OUR THOUGHTS

*** Paley once put this perspective in order when he spoke about a man who was walking along the road. He strikes his foot against a watch lying in the dust. He has never seen a watch before; he does not know what it is. He picks it up and sees that it consists of a metal case, and inside the case there is a complicated arrangement of wheels, levers, springs and jewels.

He sees the whole thing is moving and working in the most orderly way. He sees further that the hands are moving around the dial in an obviously predetermined manner.

What does he say then? Does he conclude, "*All these metals and jewels came together from the ends of the earth by themselves into wheels and springs, and by chance assembled themselves into this mechanism, and by chance wound themselves up and set themselves going. Would it make sense that it simply by chance acquired the understanding to obviously work in an orderly fashion.*"

"No!" He says, "I have found a watch; somewhere there must be a watch-maker." ***

The fact that we have order in our world presupposes that Someone is both the Creator and Sustainer of it. Our sun rises and sets in an orderly fashion with exact preciseness. Our tides flow in and out on a timetable. Our world experiences the 4 seasons of the year - every year. We must come to the fact that there has had to be a World-maker!

"No astronomer can be an atheist"

Sir James Jeans

** **Atheist:** Do you really believe that Jonah spent three days and nights in the belly of a whale?

Preacher: I don't know, sir, but when I get to heaven I'll ask him.

Atheist: But suppose he isn't in heaven?

Preacher: Then you ask him.

Sign on a tomb of an atheist:

ALL DRESSED UP AND NO PLACE TO GO.

Pity an atheist who feels grateful but has no one to thank. **

I. IN OUR THOUGHTS (Contd.)

** They have all sorts of new services today. Now they've got a dial-a-prayer service for atheists. You call a number and nobody answers. **

What we believe is very important when it comes to prayer.

"...anyone who comes to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."

Hebrews 11:6

II. IN OUR SPEECH

What we believe will eventually come out in our speech. **Prayer is an act of the heart not of the lips, but eventually what is thought in our mind and believed in our hearts will be said in our speech.** If we do not hallow God's name we will soon take it in vain. If we do not believe God is the God of heaven we will eventually believe and speak words that support our thoughts. **It is out of our hearts that our mouths speak.**

Prayer is either restrained or released by what we believe and say. If we believe that God is not interested in us and abides only in heaven then we will pray accordingly. When we get the facts straight, our words tend to coincide.

Those who know God approach His throne of grace with boldness and confidence knowing that their prayers will be answered. They also though trust God to answer their prayers as He desires not as they dictate orders to God. Some people know just how to reach out to the heart of God.

II. IN OUR SPEECH (Contd.)

4583 HER HUSBAND WAS ON THE TITANIC

*** One Sunday night in April, 1912, an American woman was weary, yet could not sleep because of an oppression of fear. At last she felt a burden of prayer, and with tremendous earnestness began to pray for her husband who was in the mid-Atlantic aboard the Titanic.

As the hours went by she could get no assurance, and kept on praying in an agony, until about five o'clock in the morning when a great peace came over her, and she was able to sleep.

Meanwhile, her husband, Colonel Gracie, was among the doomed hundreds who were trying frantically to launch lifeboats from the great ship that was going down after colliding with an iceberg.

He had given up all hope of being saved himself, and was doing his best to save the women and children. He wished he could get a last message through to his wife, and cried from his heart, *"Good bye, my darling."*

Then as the ship plunged to her watery grave, he was sucked down in the giant whirlpool. Instinctively he began to swim while under water, ice cold as it was, crying in his heart.

Suddenly he came to the surface and found himself near an over turned life boat. Along with several others he climbed aboard, and was picked up by another lifeboat, at five in the morning, the very time that peace came to his praying wife! ***

She knew the God she served and her prayer was an indication of who she knew God to be - her Deliverer. Therefore, she knew God's name and had her perception of Him in order. She recognized that the God of heaven was not limited by distance and time. She cried out to Him to be able to save to the uttermost. Her voice displayed her heart's belief.

III. IN OUR ACTIONS

One of the greatest ways we demonstrate our belief of God is what we do. We need to go past what we say about God and how we use His name, We must also consider how our actions speak. Do we faithfully attend services? Do we live in a way that demonstrates we are a child of God? I have found that what we believe about God really is proved by how we live. If we feel that He is just our Father we may take Him for granted as we do other members of our family. When we consider that He abides in heaven as well as earth we tend to maintain an attitude of humility and awe towards Him. Our actions will change when we truly believe that God sees and hears everything we do.

III. IN OUR ACTIONS (Contd.)

Set God apart in your workplace, home, times of leisure as well as in your faithfulness to spiritual matters. Martin Luther was once asked how is God's name hallowed amongst us? His answer was very simple.

"When our life and doctrine are truly Christian, that is to say, when our intellectual convictions, and our practical actions, are in full submission to the will of God, then we are hallowing God's name."

We do not hallow God's name in prayer if we can't hallow His name in our lifestyle. The most eloquent prayer is empty without a lifestyle of humble obedience to the known will of God. God must be given the reverence that His name and character deserves.

4623 BUGLE SOUND: "THE STILL"

*** In the British navy, whenever any sudden disaster, such as an explosion, occurs, it is the buglers duty to play what is called "The Still."

When the men hear it each is to stop perfectly quiet for a moment and recollect his senses and thus be better prepared for intelligent action in the emergency. ***

The opening of the Lord's prayer is much the same. It is a time for us to reflect upon the One who we are directing our prayers towards before we proceed in prayer.

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Date: Feb 25/18

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: Be Still and Know - C

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