

Jesus' Guide to Successful Praying

Long Beach Alliance Church • April 24, 2016 • Jack Littlefield • littlefieldjack@yahoo.com

“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.”

Matthew 6:9-13

I. Pray simply and directly. Matthew 6:7-8; Contrast 6:9

Like Jesus did: Matthew 11:25-26; John 11:41-42; 12:27-28; 17:1-26; Mark 14:36...

II. Pray humbly, knowing that you cannot manipulate or obligate God.

Matthew 6:7-8; Contrast 6:9-13

III. Pray submissively, dependently, intimately. Matthew 6:9

“Father” means intimacy, especially “Abba Father,” Mark 14:36; Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6

“Father” means commitment, Romans 5:8-10; 8:28-30; Ephesians 1:3-6, 7-8, 11-12

“Father” means access, Romans 5:2; Ephesians 2:18; 3:12

“Father” means confidence, Matthew 7:9-11; Hebrews 4:16; 10:19-22

IV. Pray for God's top priorities for Him. Matthew 6:9-10

A. For His name, 6:9

B. For His Kingdom, 6:10

C. For His will, 6:10

V. Pray for God's top priorities for you. Matthew 6:11-13, 14-15

A. For bread, 6:11

- It's bread

- It's daily

- It's ours

- It's a gift

B. For forgiveness, 6:12, 14-15

C. For purity, 6:13

BONUS SECTION #1

How to do acts of Righteousness: The Structure of Matthew 6:1-18

6:1 Common Command: “not to be seen by men”

Common Bottom Line: “reward”

6:2-4 Wrong and Right Giving

6:5-15 Wrong and Right Praying

6:16-17 Wrong and Right Fasting

BONUS SECTION #2

Wrong and Right Praying: The Structure of Matthew 6:5-15

6:5 When you pray, do not

6:6 When you pray, do

6:7-8 When you pray, do not

6:9-15 When you pray, do

BONUS SECTION #3

Private Prayer and Public Prayer in the Gospels and Acts

private prayer: Matthew 14:23; 26:36-44; Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16; 6:12; 9:18; 22:39

public prayer: John 11:41-42; Mark 6:41; Matthew 11:25; 18:19-20; 21:13; 6:9-13; Acts 1:13-14; 4:23-31; 12:5, 12; 13:2-3...

BONUS SECTION #4

Absolutely Amazing Promises Related to Prayer

Matthew 6:6

John 14:12-14

Ephesians 1:19

Hebrews 4:16

7:7-11

15:7

2:18

10:19-22

18:19-20

15:16

3:20

1 John 3:22

Mark 11:24

16:23-24

James 1:5

5:14-15

Luke 11:13

Romans 8:26

4:8

Psalms 34:15, 17

18:7-8

10:12

4:10

37:4-5

Jeremiah 33:3

Philippians 4:6-7

1 Peter 5:7

84:11

BONUS SECTION #5

Why You Can Expect Great Things in 2016

I. **Because God wants to glorify Himself through answered prayer.** John 14:12-14; Ephesians 3:20-21

II. **Because God wants to give you specific things through answered prayer.**

Matthew 7:7-11; 18:19-20; Mark 11:24; John 14:13-14; 15:7

III. **Because God wants to give you assurance of salvation through answered prayer.** 1 John 5:13-15

IV. **Because God wants to grow you spiritually through answered prayer.** 2 Chronicles 6:28-31

V. **Because God wants to reach your unchurched friends through answered prayer.** 2 Chronicles 6:32-33

BONUS SECTION #6

Old Testament References to God as Father

A few of the following are listed under two headings. This is a new study for me; if you know of any I missed, please let me know.

1. Passages which refer to God as father (often small “f”) in a simile or metaphor. Psalm 68:5; 103:13; Proverbs 3:12; Isaiah 64:8?; Jeremiah 31:9; Malachi 1:6.

2. Passages which talk about how people or the nation of Israel *should* address God as Father directly, although they do not, or which speak about referring to God as Father in the future, but not at the time of the writing. Jeremiah 3:4, 19; Psalm 89:26.

3. Passages which refer to God as the Father of an individual, such as Solomon (4x), but not the Father of all believers. 2 Samuel 7:14 (=1 Chronicles 17:13; =22:10, similar to 28:6); Psalm 89:26.

4. Passages which refer to God as the Father specifically of Israel, without including all believers. Deuteronomy 32:6; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Isaiah 63:16 (twice); 64:8; Jeremiah 31:9; Malachi 2:10. *These include the only four times that God is ever directly addressed as Father in the entire Old Testament: 1 Chronicles 29:10; Isaiah 63:16 (twice); 64:8.*

Yet in the Gospels Jesus referred to God as Father over 165 times and directly addressed Him as Father...many boatloads of times!

Note: “Abba” is an Aramaic, not Hebrew, name for Father. It occurs in the New Testament only in Mark 14:36; Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6. There is no evidence that Jewish people before Jesus ever addressed God as “Abba.” Jewish tradition in the time of Jesus dictated that God be addressed in the traditional sacred language of Hebrew, not in the language which the Jewish people in the Holy Land spoke: Aramaic.

PURPOSE: To encourage true righteousness as the standard of the Kingdom of heaven in contrast with the false righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees.

| INTRO- DUCTION | I. TRUE RIGHTEOUSNESS AND THE LAW | II. TRUE RIGHTEOUSNESS AND GOOD DEEDS | III. TRUE RIGHTEOUSNESS AND POSSESSIONS | IV. TRUE RIGHTEOUSNESS AND RELATIONSHIPS | CONCLUSION: TIME TO RESPOND! |
|-------------------|--|--|--|---|------------------------------------|
| 3-12 | 3-16 | 7-20 | | | |

| KEY WORDS | KEY VERSES | THE SETTING, 5:1-2 |
|--|-------------------|--|
| "Blessed" "kingdom of heaven" | 5:20 | <p>INTRODUCTION</p> <p>THE CHARACTER OF TRUE RIGHTEOUSNESS, 5:3-12</p> <p>THE NEW TEACHERS OF TRUE RIGHTEOUSNESS, 5:13-16</p> <p>THE NECESSITY OF TRUE RIGHTEOUSNESS, 5:17-20</p> |
| "You have heard" "But I say to you...." | 5:48 5:20 5:17 | <p>I. TRUE RIGHTEOUSNESS AND THE LAW</p> <p>5:21 • ANGER, 5:21-26 • LUST, 5:27-30 • DORCE, 5:31-32 • LOVE, 5:43-47 • SUMMARY, 5:48</p> |
| "not... as the hypocrites" "your Father... in secret will reward you" | 6:1 | <p>II. TRUE RIGHTEOUSNESS AND GOOD DEEDS</p> <p>6:1 SUMMARY, 6:1 WHEN YOU GIVE ALMS, 6:2-4 WHEN YOU PRAY, 6:5-15 WHEN YOU FAST, 6:16-18</p> |
| "Do not worry" | 6:33 | <p>III. TRUE RIGHTEOUSNESS AND POSSESSIONS</p> <p>6:19 TYPES OF POSSESSIONS, 6:19-21 SINGLE-MINDEDNESS AND POSSESSIONS, 6:22-24 WORRY AND POSSESSIONS, 6:25-34</p> |
| "This is the Law and the Prophets" | 7:12 | <p>IV. TRUE RIGHTEOUSNESS AND RELATIONSHIPS</p> <p>7:1 JUDGING, 7:1-5 THE UNAPPRECIATIVE, 7:6 PRAYER, 7:7-11 FAIR TREATMENT, 7:12</p> |
| "These words of Mine" | 7:24-27 | <p>CONCLUSION.</p> <p>7:13 TWO GATES, 7:13-14 TWO TREES, 7:15-23 TWO HOUSES, 7:24-27</p> |
| KEY WORDS | KEY VERSES | THE RESPONSE, 7:28-29 |

GROWTH GROUP GUIDE • WEEK 3: MATTHEW 6:9-15

SERMON REFLECTION

What were your thoughts on Sunday's message? Discuss with your group questions you had, things that stood out to you, and impressions you had.

DISCUSSION

How do you see the Lord's prayer being connected with the Beatitudes? How does the Lord's prayer reflect the Kingdom of God?

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Living like Jesus takes community! Obedience to Christ requires that we do it in the context of relationships. Because of that, we are going to look at various elements of INTENTIONAL GOSPEL RELATIONSHIPS.

SUMMARY OF TRUST

- What is trust? Is it relational?
- Remember: Trust takes time!
- It is dynamic-you can increase or decrease trust in a relationship.
- Is it possible to be trustworthy without being in a trusting relationship?

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

Name the people in your life who you find trustworthy.

What makes them trustworthy?

Did you have trustworthy role models growing up? Parents? Grandparents? Older siblings? Cousins? Teachers? Pastors?

TRUST IN GOD

You may not feel relational trust with God, but that does not make Him any less trustworthy. He is faithful even when we are not.

2 Timothy 2:13

Philippians 1:6

MAKING ROOM TO MAKE DISCIPLES

Sometimes it's hard to talk to people about our faith. What are some things you are willing to talk to your unbelieving friends about? What makes those conversations easier or more fulfilling? Why do you like talking about those things?

INTENTIONAL GOSPEL RELATIONSHIPS