

KESSID SERMON NOTES



Sermon

The Lord's Prayer: The Welcoming Prayer

Date

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Speaker

Pastor Danny Clinton

- Too often we lose sight of how simple prayer is really supposed to be.

The most basic definition of prayer is "Talking to God."

- God loves this exchange with His children, just as we love the exchange we have with our children.
- Realize: "Fellowship with God is the heart of prayer..."

(Vs) Philippians 4:6-7 – "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

- And this is exactly the kind of Prayer we see described in the Bible...
- Seeking God's favor (Vs) Exodus 32:11
- Pouring out one's soul to the Lord (Vs) 1 Samuel 1:15
- Crying out to heaven (Vs) 2 Chronicles 32:20
- Drawing near to God (Vs) Psalms 73:28, KJV
- Kneeling before the Father (Vs) Ephesians 3:14

All of this... "Is communication of the human soul with the Lord who created the soul."

- If you struggle in this area, consider praying about your prayer life

The Lord's Prayer

- (Vs) Luke 11:1-4 – A Response to His Disciples.
- (Vs) Matt 6:5-8... – Sermon on the Mount
- (Vs) Matt 6:9-13 – The Lord's Prayer
- Many people misunderstand the Lord's Prayer to be a prayer we are supposed to recite word for word, treating the Lord's Prayer as a magic formula, as if the words themselves have some specific power or influence with God.
- The Bible teaches the opposite...
- God is far more interested in our hearts when we pray than He is in our words...

(Vs) *Matt 6:6-7* – “But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.”

The Lord's Prayer should be understood as an example, a pattern, of how to pray...

- It gives us the “ingredients” that should go into prayer.

(Vs) *Matt 6:9,10* – “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

- “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.” = **Father Focused**
- Teaching us we can address our prayers even to the Holy Father.

Note: The Bible also teaches that we can pray to one or all three, because all three are one.

- To the Father, we pray with the psalmist...(Vs) *Psalms 5:2* – “Listen to my cry for help, my King and my God, for to you I pray.”
- To the Lord Jesus, we pray as to the Father because they are equal. Stephen, as he was being martyred, prayed (Vs) *Acts 7:59* – “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”
- We are told to pray in the Spirit and in His power. The Spirit helps us to pray, even when we do not know how or what to ask for; (Vs) *Jude 1:20* “But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit.”

Perhaps the best way to understand “The role of the Trinity in prayer is that we pray to the Father, through (or in the name of) the Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

- All three are active participants in the believer's prayer.
- This is also teaching us who not to pray to.
- The problem with praying to anyone other than God is that He will not share His glory.
- In fact, praying to anyone or anything other than God is idolatry.

(Vs) *Isaiah 42:8* – “I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols.”

“Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” = Will of God...

- Here we are to pray for God's will to be done.
- It's a reminder to us that we are to pray for God's plan in our lives and the world...not our own plan.
- When we make petitions to God, we let God know exactly where we stand and what we would like to see happen.
- In our prayers, we must admit that God is greater than we are and ultimately knows what is best in any given situation (Vs) *Romans 11:33-36*
- God is good and asks us to trust Him...
- In prayer, we say, essentially, “Not my will, but your will be done.”

“The key to answered prayer is praying according to the will of God and in accordance with His Word.”

- God answers all Prayers... But not always how you want...
- "Yes", "Wait", "Not Yet", "Follow Me Instead", or "No." Right Prayer requests, seek not our own will, but seek instead to align ourselves with the will of God more fully.

(Vs) 1 John 5:14 – "And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us."

(Vs) James 4:3 – "You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions."

Welcoming the Lord

- This is a prayer that encourages us to sit with God and welcome the things inside your life that cause internal stirring. It's about welcoming "what is," and then giving it all to God.

THE WELCOMING PRAYER **By Father Thomas Keating**

*Welcome, welcome, welcome.
I welcome everything that comes to me today
because I know it's for my healing.
I welcome all thoughts, feelings, emotions, persons, situations, and conditions.
I let go of my desire for power and control.
I let go of my desire for affection, esteem, approval and pleasure.
I let go of my desire for survival and security.
I let go of my desire to change any situation, condition, person or myself.
I open to the love and presence of God and God's action within.
Amen.*

Challenge: Start every day with this 4 minute prayer.