

TEACH US TO PRAY

OUR FATHER

This month, we are going to be talking about prayer. We are going to be learning, really learning and unlearning things to do with prayer.

Prayer is a crucial part of our Christian faith and we are going to dig deep.

Luke sets a stage for the most profound prayer school and Matthew gives the context of his discussion on Prayer.

Luke tells of the disciples' observation of the life and power and authority Jesus walked around with and that he had perfected what had eluded them all in practice. An intimate relationship with God. They desired that they have what he had so in chapter 11 they asked him, having seen Him work wonders, having sent the 70, having taught with so much power and understanding, "teach us to Pray."

Matt. 6:5-18 gives a whole discourse on practices and principles in prayer. In light of the set stage by Luke.

From the sermon on the mount in Chapter 5 right up to chapter 7 Jesus is talking about life and how it ought to look like in God.

Prayer is introduced as a sub-topic in this discourse.

"This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

Matthew 6:9 NIV

The word, "religious" has been thrown around when this prayer has been recited or prayed.

For most of us this is probably going to be the most daunting, uncomfortable exposure of your view point against the truest reality of who God is and how we approach him.

For some of us, this will be life changing, for others it will be a seed planted. For others, like the disciples, this will be too difficult to accept.

My prayer is that the Father, by his spirit, will give you wisdom and understanding to fathom all he desires for you to know as you enter into the month of prayer and fasting.

In Jesus name I pray.

Through the weeks of various teachings Bishop Zak, myself and even you have asked questions and wondered how is it that there is increasing prayer nationwide, more people getting saved, more people attending overnight prayers, more people starting prayer schools... And yet.... We get reports on what's App, on the news about the increasing evil, the growing darkness and the decaying society.

More homes are breaking in the church as more prayers and petitions are being made.

Does God listen any more? Some of us have taken a break from radically believing God because he hasn't come through for you.

Some of you have heard of PUSH or advocate for it. .. So when it happens, what then?

We have heard that "prayer works" ,does it?

People believe in prayer, should they?

With all this evil, with all these hypocrites and all kinds of frauds claiming to be Christians?

Should we pray more ? Some more? Are we not doing enough? Must we fast more? Just so we can see our enemies fall? Does God need us to do more, be more, serve more maybe sacrifice more... Know more than the Bible teaches...?

Should we seek to know the mysterious ways of the enemy so we may fight him better.. Somehow? So we go to prayer school? We go to overnights, we go to prophets and pastors and men of God who seem to have mastered this notion of prayer.... What should we do?

We seem to be desperately hopeless as we place our hopes in prayer more and more. This is the truth. We may deny it. We may think it away.... But it is reality. Our state is depraved but our desperation drives us to hope in the more we can do for God that he may intervene.

Some of our ideas on prayer must change.

Eg. Prayer school has caused more confusion than brought freedom. People are more superstitious, more superficial and more suspicious with their families, their workplaces their marriages....

Even now, because I have checked it, I am going to be tagged by some as having lost my spirituality. .some will wonder if I am still saved. Some will say theology is confusing me....

So we must ask ourselves, could we have lost it somewhere?

What is prayer?

Communing with God. Talking to God. Having him speak to us.

It is the avenue through which we can encounter God, be transformed.

Prayer doesn't change things or situation. Prayer is a conduit. A catalyst.

Prayer changes you and I.. Then we change things around us. Our perspectives change. Our world view changes. Our hopes and dreams... Our livelihood, our outlook and outlines of life change....

We have an eternal perspective...we see the eternal value of things more clearly....

Prayer opens a door for us to see and be a part of the big picture.

What is the big picture?

Is it life? Is it eternal life? Is it unity, is it the church? Is it going to heaven? Is it purpose? Is it fulfilling your purpose.

Perhaps we have been limited to our own view of what we think the big picture is. What is it?

Can God's sovereignty over all be an answer to this question?

I spoke on the sovereignty of God on martyrs day and maybe I will reiterate what I shared as some of you were there.

I asked, what does it mean for God to be sovereign?

Is he sovereign?

What does it look like to be sovereign?

our understanding his sovereignty (or lack of) has a significant bearing on our faith, our prayer, our character and our lifestyle.

In labouring to define sovereignty I said,

For someone to have sovereignty, over anything... They must have supreme power or authority over it.

They have supremacy, dominion, power and ascendancy over whatever is under their rule and control

Further more... Sovereignty is measured by the extent of self governance, self rule, and self sufficiency.

A sovereign being or state has supreme rule and power.

Enter God. We Know Him as the creator of the Universe. The ruler of all and everything. It is said of Him by the Psalmists

For the **Lord Most High** is awesome, the great King over all the earth. Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises. **God reigns over the nations;** God is seated on his holy throne. The nobles of the nations assemble as the people of the God of Abraham, **for the kings of the earth belong to God;** he is greatly exalted.

Psalm 47:2 , 6 - 6 , 8 - 9

Let me remind you of what Paul describes God as when He spoke of His son.

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or

rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Colossians 1:15 - 20 NIV

John in His revelatory writings depicted an epic picture of a heavenly scene and there declarations of adoration were uttered by most revered creatures...

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!"

Revelation 5:13 NIV

<https://bible.com/bible/111/rev.5.13.NIV>

What is prayer in light of this magnificence ? What is prayer in light of His sovereignty and awesomeness?

Prayer is joining God..this eternal immortal indescribable and incomparable God and partnering with Him in His will to let His kingdom come.

It is not inviting God into the affairs of Man. Let's not get it twisted by our depraved self absorbed notions of grandeur... He is sovereign He rules over everything.

Prayer is an open invitation the sovereign God has established for us to be witnesses and experience the greatest of all of life. Himself.

He alone is the Big picture. He is the Alfa and omega the first and last... And everything in between....

This is the God Jesus introduces us to as "Father" when He says,

"This, then, is how you should pray: "'Our Father in heaven,

Fatherhood

Our concept of fatherhood is usually framed by our perception, our perspective, our world view. How we have been raised will inform us about fatherhood.

For some of us, we have had dead beat dads, absent father's, abusive fathers , uncommitted fathers, unfaithful fathers, non existent fathers... We have all been wounded, because of the consequences of the fall, by our fathers in one way or another.

For many of us, we have been orphaned. We have orphan mentalities.

1. We have no identity

An orphan will always feel alone. Like no one cares, they belong to no one. They are unsure of themselves and always second guessing. They don't know where they came from or where they are going...

When a little bit of love is shown to them, they clutch on to it with dear life or retreat into their loneliness because that is all that is familiar. They are seeking for significance...

An Orphan mentality creates the false equation of life....

Performance + accomplishment =
significance

In relationships, they will quickly let go of them, give up on them trying to find who they are or trying to accomplish much at the expense of those that love them...

They cannot commit.

2. We have no sense of security

Eg. When you go to the orphanages, when you look at the street kids... You give them food to eat and they will eat it like there is no tomorrow

Greed is a result of a distrust of the system. Because you are not certain of anything, you hog and hoard any and everything that can give you a semblance of security.

Status + recognition = security

In relationships, they are in them to feel secure... To be recognized as a somebody. As soon as that person represents their fear of insecurity, they run away. They are flaky... Always worried or depressed.....

3. We have no sense of acceptance..

This orphan mentality brings to light a deep need to be enough. To be appreciated. To belong.

Because there is no sense of belonging, there is a feeling like the world is out to get you. So one change the way they look, they hide behind layers of masks and make up, they hide behind their personalities to avoid being found out. They feel like they are frauds and won't ever escape that feeling... So they do whatever they can to belong. They drink, have sex, claim fun... But really, it is acceptance they are looking for....

I was this Person . I got caught up in trying to be the Savior (Savior complex) I compromised my purity, compromised my sexuality, compromised my integrity.... Because I was trying to feed this false life equation.

Appearance +admiration =acceptance

Read Matt. 6:5 and you will see this more clearly. You will see the orphan mentality in prayer... In the way they approach God..

“And when you pray, do not be like the *hypocrites*, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. (*performance and accomplishments*) Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to *your Father*, who is unseen. (*identity*) Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you (*significance*). And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like *pagans*, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. (*recognition, status*) Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. (*security*)

Matthew 6:5 - 8 NIV

“When you fast, do not look somber as the *hypocrites* do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. (*appearance and admiration*) Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but *only to your Father*, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. (*acceptance*)

Matthew 6:16 - 18 NIV

Father and son

The first mention of the word "Father" in reference to God according to the gospel of Mathew is only seen in Chapter 6 when talking about Prayer.

See How the Father gave His son significance in identity, Security in assurance, and acceptance in public declaration.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, (*God moved heaven and earth for His son*) and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. (*God was proud to show His affection to His Son*). And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, (*identity, significance*) whom I love (*security, love*) with him I am well pleased.” (*acceptance*)

Matthew 3:16 - 17

Jesus, in the confidence that His father Sent Him, appointed Him, Anointed Him, empowered Him set out to bring us into the fold.

He then asks us to pray saying "our father"

Isn't it beautiful? We are truly partakers of this amazing inheritance.

You see For God (the Father) so loved you and Me, he sent His only begotten son that whoever believes in Him(*puts his trust in Him*) will never perish but have eternal life(*enter into his rest*)

Jesus said He Was The WAY, the TRUTH LIFE,...No one comes to the FATHER except through me.

Paul puts it this way.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!
All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:17 - 18 NIV

We are partakers of the Sonship. We were sealed with the Promised Holy Spirit. The Spirit of Truth. The power of God, the enabler on the day we believed.

That is why Paul to the Romans said...

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, " Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

Romans 8:14 - 16

In conclusion

We can walk in confidence knowing this truth. Our significance, our security and our acceptance is in Him.

We rid our selves of greed, selfishness and self centered ness.

We no longer walk in fear or in slavery of an orphan mentality.... We are free because God, through His son, by the Power of the Holy Spirit has allowed us to call him Father.

We therefore are Brothers and sisters, who call on God as Father... Let us see each other as God sees us.

Ab'eisheemwe ,Aboluganda. Revival came out of this reality. God alone

Let us pray

My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

John 17:15 - 17 , 21

HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME

Hallowed be. ἁγιασθήτω cannot here, as sometimes (Revelation 22:11; cf. John 17:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:23), mean "be made holy," for this God's manifestation of himself already is; but "be counted holy," i.e. in human judgment. The prayer is that God's manifestation of himself may be acknowledged and revered as the one supreme standard of truth and the one means of knowing God and approaching him; of 1 Peter 3:15, where "ἁγιάζω obviously means 'set apart, enshrined as the object of supreme, absolute reverence, as free from all defilement and possessed of all excellence'" (Johnstone, in lee.); cf. also Isaiah 29:23.