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Prayer Pt 1 What is prayer? And our heart!

This is a new teaching on prayer. In this study we have searched the scriptures and establish there are 511 occurrences of the word “pray”. From our search provide three points (i) King Solomon prayed acknowledging God first, (ii) Daniel set his face unto the Lord to seek him by prayer and supplication, fasting, sackcloth and ashes, and (iii) David’s prayer included an acknowledgement of his sin. Finally, at the conclusion of this study we provide the meaning from scripture of the word “prayer”.

It is from our search of the scriptures that we establish our three points–

1. King Solomon prayed and acknowledged God first

“And Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven: And he said, Lord God of Israel, there is no God like thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath, who keepest covenant and mercy with thy servants that walk before thee with all their heart” (1Kgs 8:22 & 23). See also 2Chr 6:13–40

2. Daniel set his face unto the Lord to seek by prayer and supplication with fasting, sackcloth and ashes

“And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes” Dan 9:3

3. David’s prayer included acknowledging his sin

“I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found..” (Ps.32:5 & 6).

Illustration

Man’s religions have one things in common – they all have the adherents work for their salvation, which encourages the lost man’s proud heart, and they do not come to God the Father through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ.

Questions of the scriptures

- ii) In Job 21:15 he asks– “what profit should we have, if we pray unto him?” (God).
- ii) What is the similarity between the prophets of Baal and the worshippers of world religions today?

Answers from the scriptures

- i) What does it profit a man to pray?

God’s ears are open to the prayers of the righteous, those, who today come in the righteousness of His Son, and not through Mary, or another name– “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (1Tim 2:5).

- ii) Similarities between world religions today and the prophets of Baal?

a) The prophets of Baal prayed and asked Baal to do something – but even though they prayed from morning till noon there was no voice nor answer– 1 Kgs 18:26
“And they took the bullock which was given them...and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made”.

Let us come before our Father in heaven in the righteousness, and faith of our Saviour Jesus Christ, praying in His name that He would hear and answer our prayers.

Meaning of prayer from scripture:

To pray is to petition God

“And she said, Oh my lord, [as] thy soul liveth, my lord, I [am] the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the Lord. [27] For this child I prayed; and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of him” (1 Sam.1:26 & 27)

To pray is to beseech

“Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech [you] by us: we pray [you] in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God” (2 Cor.5: 20).

Example- Jehoahaz

“And Jehoahaz besought the Lord, and the Lord hearkened unto him: for he saw the oppression of Israel, because the king of Syria oppressed them” (2 Kgs.13: 4).

To speak with God and for Him to talk with us is prayer

“And Abraham said unto God, O that Ishmael might live before thee! [22] And he left off talking with him, and God went up from Abraham” (Gen.17:18, 22).

Pray for Jesus was simply talking to his Father

“And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. [42] He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done” (Matt.26:39, 42).

To pray is to make intercession

“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered” (Rom8:26).

To pray is to make request with joy

“Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy” (Phil.1: 4).

Prayers are supplications-

“Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day” (1 Tim.5: 5).

Praying is to offer up supplications with strong crying and tears unto His Father

“So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee. [7] Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared” (Heb 5:5, 7).

Prayer includes giving thanks

“We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you” (Col 1:3).