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Prayer Pt 4 Protocols, Pretence & Repetitions

This is our fourth study on prayer. In our previous teaching we established three points– (i) pray when we give thanks for food, (ii) In everything pray, and (iii) pray without ceasing. In this study we establish an additional three points–.

(i) Protocols– pray to the Father, in Jesus name, kneeling in reverence (ii) beware of pretence in prayer– for such is to pray like the hypocrites, (iii) beware of repetitive prayers in vain–for such is to pray like the hypocrites.

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

1. Protocols for prayer– Pray to the Father in Jesus’ name

“Thinkest thou that I can not now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?” (Matt.26: 53), c.f. – “These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father. [26] At that day ye shall ask in my name...” (Jn.16: 25,16).

2. Beware of pretence in prayer– for such is to pray like the hypocrites

Jesus rebuked the Pharisees– hypocrites for a pretence make long prayer
“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows’ houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation” (Matt.23: 14)

3. Beware of repetitive prayers in vain– for such is like the hypocrites.

“But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking” (Matt.6: 7).

Illustration

When you speak with a person that has spiritual discernment they will soon know if you speaking words without knowledge, whether you speak vain things. IF you simply like the sound of your own voice.. And I tell you that having being in sales for 30 years and now preaching and teaching it is very easy to get into the mode of speaking – and liking the sound of your own voice.

Questions of the scriptures

i) Is fasting part of our prayer–life today? ii) Do we pray the Lord’s prayer?

Answers from the scriptures

i) what saith the scriptures about whether fasting is for today?

“Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency” (1 Cor.7: 5).

ii) what saith the scriptures about whether we pray as Jesus taught His disciples?

Do we pray?– “Thy kingdom come” (Matt.6:10).

Are we forgiven when we forgive others? Do we pray– “And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors” (Matt.6: 12)? See –“But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (Matt.6: 15).

As we grow in grace and in the knowledge of God our prayers will change, as our heart changes, adopting the protocols, letting go any pretence and vain repetitions and praying from our heart!