



Foundations:

Lesson 4 - Prayer

Topics



- Meaning & Purpose
- Methods
- Effective Prayer
- Balance
- Additional Points



Purpose of Prayer

Questions we will answer tonight:

What is it?

What is it for?

Basic Interrogatives

Etymology

- “Study of word origin”
- Why? Understanding may be diluted with cultural misrepresentations.
- To defeat lofty arguments (2 Corinthians 10:5-7)
 - Modern word from Old French: “Preiere” c.1300
 - Taken from medieval Latin: “Precari” to ask, beg, pray
- Hebrew: “paw-lal”
 - Translates to pray/prayer 75 times
 - Hebrew synonyms: *intervene, interpose, arbitrate, supplication, intreat, request, meditation*
- Greek: “proseuchomai”
 - Translates to pray/prayer 85 times
 - Greek synonyms: *supplication, request, ask, beseech, intreat*

The Hebrew word "paw-lal" is written in blue Hebrew characters. The first character is a blue shin (ש) with a blue vertical stroke, and the second character is a blue lamed (ל) with a blue vertical stroke.The Greek word "proseuchomai" is written in blue. The characters are in a blue serif font, with the first letter being a blue pi (π) and the rest of the word in a blue serif font.



Methodology

Logic of how we go about things, a framework

"In this manner, therefore pray..." Matt 6:9a NLT

1. ACTS Method
2. PRAY Method
3. Using God's Word Method

A.C.T.S. Prayer Model

- **Adoration:**

- Praise God for who he is

- **Confession:**

- Confess our sins and shortcomings

- **Thanksgiving:**

- Thank God for what he has done
(ex Ps. 138:1-2)

- **Supplication:**

- Make our requests known (ex ps. 142:1)

A

Ps. 34:1-3 I will praise the Lord at all times. I will constantly speak his praises. 2 I will boast only in the Lord; let all who are helpless take heart. 3 Come, let us tell of the Lord's greatness; let us exalt his name together.

C

Ps. 14:12-13 How can I know all the sins lurking in my heart? Cleanse me from these hidden faults. 13 Keep your servant from deliberate sins! Don't let them control me. Then I will be free of guilt and innocent of great sin.

T

Ps. 138:1-2 I give you thanks, O Lord, with all my heart; I will sing your praises before the gods. 2 I bow before your holy Temple as I worship. I praise your name for your unfailing love and faithfulness; for your promises are backed by all the honor of your name.

S

Ps. 142:1-2 I cry out to the Lord; I plead for the Lord's mercy. 2 I pour out my complaints before him and tell him all my troubles.



P.R.A.Y. Model

- Praise:
 - Glorify God for who He is
- Repent:
 - of our sins
- Ask:
 - Make requests
- Yield:
 - Yield to God's; will be able to set aside desired outcomes

Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)

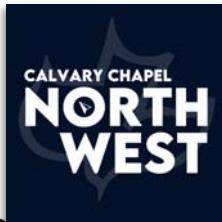
P **9b** "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

R **12** and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

A **11** Give us this day our daily bread,

13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Y **10** Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.





Using-God's-Word Method

Isa 55:11 "so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."

Ex "Commit your actions to the Lord, and your plans will succeed."

Proverbs 16:3 NLT

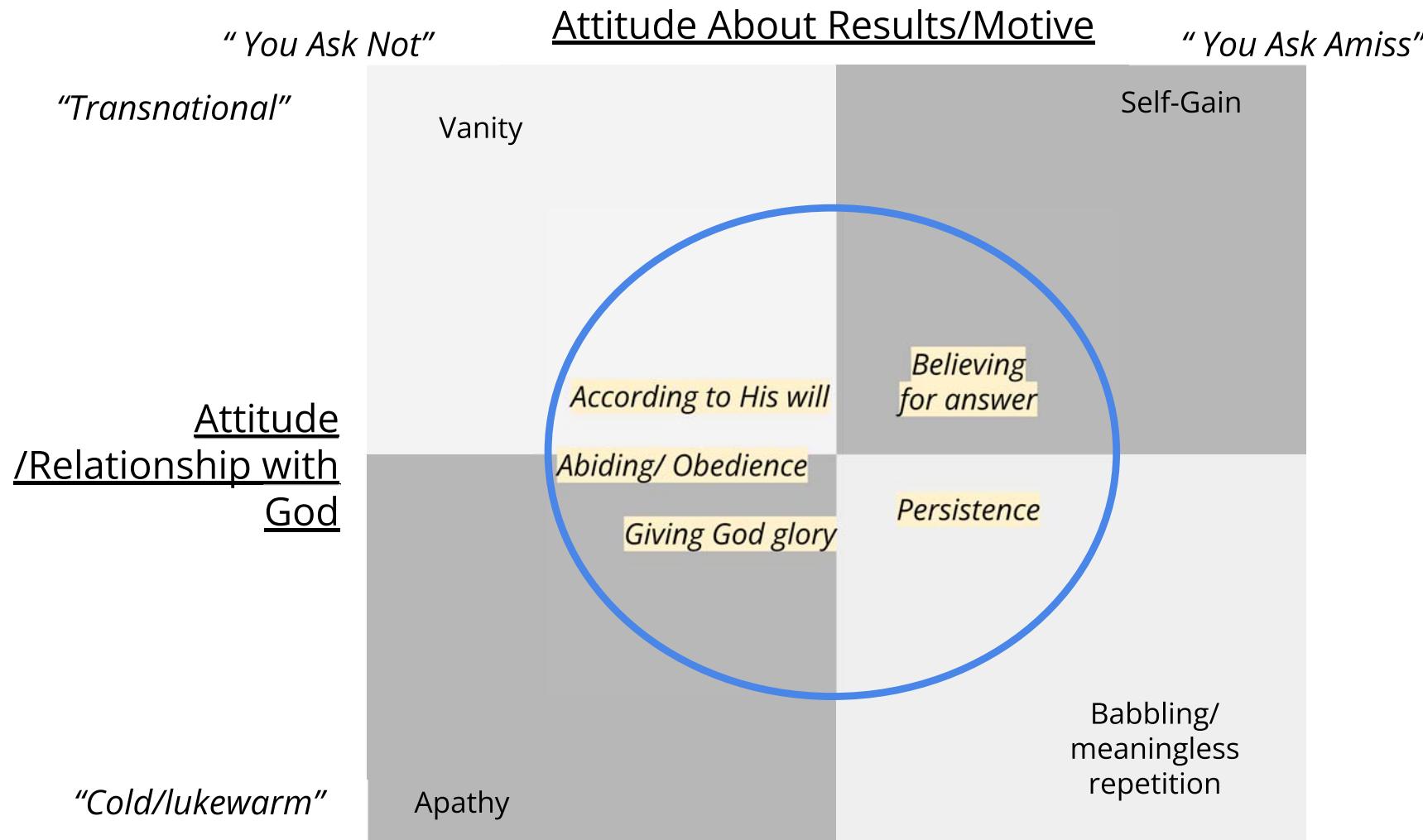
Ex. "Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land." Job 1:10 ESV



How to Make Prayers Effective

- The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. James 5:16b NLT
- *How?*
 - "You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, *so that the Son can bring glory to the Father*. Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!" John 14:13-14 NLT
 - "Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because *we keep his commandments and do what pleases him*." 1 John 3:21-22 ESV
 - "If you *abide in me, and my words abide in you*, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." John 15:7 ESV
 - "pray *without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances*; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 ESV

Keeping it in Balance (Prayer Matrix)





Additional Points

- Asking in Jesus name...
 - Is it a requirement?
 - *"Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!"* John 14:14
 - *(in context) "I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. 13 You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father."*
John 14: 12-13
- Prayer Etiquette
 - *"When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. 6 But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you. 7 "When you pray, don't babble on and on as the Gentiles do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. 8 Don't be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!"* Matthew 6:5
 - Not a formality; articulate words not required; the spirit knows and intercedes for us!
- Pray with Perseverance
 - E.g. Abraham, Moses, parable of knocking at neighbors door.
 - *"And when [Manasseh] was in distress, he entreated the favor of the Lord his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers. He prayed to him, and God was moved by his entreaty and heard his plea and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord was God."* 2 Chronicles 33:12-13 ESV

Closing

Prayer and questions...

