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Wednesday, January 17, 2024

## **WOW – Word on Wednesday**

### **PRAYING MORE IN 2024!**

#### **The Pattern for Prayer**

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**Introduction:** Of all the privileges the saints of God enjoy, perhaps, the greatest is the privilege of prayer. To be able to go directly into the presence of the Lord is an honor beyond description. It goes beyond comprehension to be able to speak to God Who created and controls the world, and to know that He promised to hear us and answer us.

When you consider the fact that real prayer is not just sending words into the air, but prayer is used by God to accomplish His purposes in our lives – therefore you and I need to learn how to pray without pretense.

#### **I. Our Prayers should be to the Preeminent (vs 9-10)**

##### **a. WHO? (vs 9a)**

1. Father – implies a relationship
2. Our – speaks of the community of faith
  - Our prayer life should encompass the entire family of God Philippians 2:4

##### **b. WHERE? (vs 9b)**

1. Heaven – speaks of God's position as Sovereign
  - Faithlessness has no place in our prayer life. Hebrews 11:6

##### **c. HOW?**

1. Two things to remember as we come before His presence:
  - Hallowed – reminds us of holiness. God is a holy God and must be approached in fear and reverence! Isaiah 6:5  
Job 40:4
  - Name – when we come before Him, there is “only one name that has access to God – Jesus!” Philippians 2:9
    - a.** There is power in that Name!
2. Thy Kingdom come:
  - A request for Jesus to return.
  - This is a personal request. Luke 17:21
  - This is an evangelistic request. Acts 7:60

#### **II. Our Prayers should include a Petition (vs 11-13)**

- a. We should pray about our physical needs.
  1. There is no sin or shame in asking God to meet our physical needs. Philippians 4:19
- b. “This day” – we need to take today's needs to God and leave tomorrow's need for God. Matthew 6:33-34
- c. We should pray about our spiritual needs.
  1. Forgiveness of self = “debt”, sin, trespass, shortcomings, resentments, what we owe God and others.

2. Forgiveness of others

- An unforgiving spirit will totally destroy one's prayer life
- Society exalts vengeance over forgiveness, but society is wrong
- Unforgiveness will eat you alive spiritually, filling you with bitterness, anger, rage, anxiety, depression. Paul calls it a 'root of bitterness'.

Hebrews 12:15

3. We are never more like God than when we forgive! He's loving, gracious, kind, and forgiving.

**III. Our Prayers should include Praise.**

- a. For His Sovereignty – He is to be praised for the King He is!
- b. For His Power – we must acknowledge He is all powerful and almighty!
- c. For His Glory – He demands and deserves all the glory in every situation in life!

**A – Adoration**                      God must be worshipped.

**C – Confession**                    Our sin must be confessed.

**T – Thanksgiving**              Be thankful in all things.

**S – Supplication**                Tell God all about your needs.