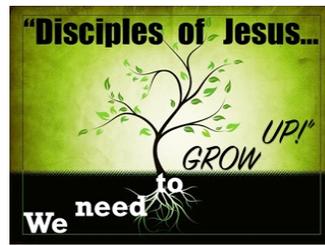


“Disciples of Jesus ... We need to GROW UP!”



Part 5: “Prayer ... where humility and boldness meet!”

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:5-13, 18:1-8

Introduction: PRAYER, according to God’s Word, is a right, a privilege reserved for His children.

Luke 18:7-8: “When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?” (vs. 8).

Ephesians 6:17-18: “ ... praying at all times in the Spirit ... ”

As God’s children humbly approach the Father’s throne in the name of Jesus we may boldly ask for all that He has promised us in Christ.

Failing to pray will leave a void in your life that will be filled with spiritual apathy, weakness and even spiritual death!

I. We approach our Father with humility ...

As Jesus taught His disciples to pray it is clear from the start that praying is first about GOD !! (Matthew 6:9-10, Luke 11:2)

The first essential element of praying is to acknowledge God’s reign, His sovereignty, His rule over all things.

“A.C.T.S.”: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication.

Psalms 51:17: “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.”

James 4:1-10: “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble” (vs. 6).

Psalms 66:16-20; Deuteronomy 32:1-4; I Chronicles 29:10-13: “Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty ...” (I Chronicles 29:11).

Without awe there is no humility and without humility there is no amazement or sense of privilege.

II. We draw near to our Father with confidence ...

Luke 11:9-13: “ ... how much MORE will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

Jesus is talking about asking for the guidance and wisdom that come as the Spirit works within God’s children.

Romans 8:5-8: “ ... to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace ” (vs. 6).

Romans 8:26-27: “ ... the Spirit helps us in our weakness ... the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”

If the Spirit is moving you to pray ... then the Spirit prays WITH you!

Luke 18:1,7-8: “ ... will not God give justice to His elect, who cry to Him day and night?” (vs. 7).

Hebrews 10:19: “Therefore, brothers (fellow believers), since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus ... ”

Hebrews 10:21-23: “ ... let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith ... ” (vs.22) ... “let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful !” (vs. 23).

I John 5:13-15: “And this is the confidence we have ... if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us ... and ... we know that we HAVE the requests that we have asked of Him” (vss. 14-15).

It is in knowing Jesus that praying becomes what God intends for His children: like spiritual breathing !

III. We pray to our Father with boldness ...

You will never grow as a disciple of Jesus if you don’t know your identity in Christ !

John 16:24: “Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask and you will receive, that your joy may be full!”

Praying boldly means praying for what He has promised: wisdom, strength, peace and hope.

When we are finished praying, we KNOW that we have what we have asked because our God is with us and for us and in us!

You will not grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ if you do not know the privilege of being one of God’s children!!