

# Prayer as Worship

## An Examination of Matthew 6:9&10

### Part 1

---

#### Matt 6:9&10

**9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.**

**10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.**

#### Why This Study?

These two verses are the beginning of a very familiar portion of Scripture known to many people as "The Lord's Prayer". It would however be better known as "The Disciples' Prayer" because this is how our Lord taught us to pray.

And I believe that the Lord just impressed upon my heart that we need to look back at the whole matter of Worship, in general, and Prayer as actually being Worship. In my own personal life over the last year and a half or so- I have seen God answer prayer in more mighty and evident ways than at any other time in my life. And, so, I've been sort of concerned about this whole matter of Prayer and evaluating my own personal Prayer Life and what Prayer is really all about recently.

But, not only was I motivated to study Prayer as Worship by the *positive* side of Prayer- I was also motivated by the *negative* side as well. As I listen to what's going on in the modern Christian world; as I hear the various preachers and teachers; as I read various books; and as I try to put my finger on the pulse of what's happening in the modern Church- I see an ever increasing movement that all of us are probably somewhat aware of in this matter of the Prosperity "gospel" and the positive confession "gospel" that is really very threatening to the purity and the sanity of the Church.

It seems as though Christian television and radio and many Churches are literally getting more and more and more people who are buying into the false notion that Prayer is simply a method by which we get what we want from God- that God is *obligated* to deliver those things that we ask Him.

I turned on the television last night and a man name Kenneth Copeland came on. He said, "*Write for this little book if you want to know how to get health and prosperity.*" And he went on to say that when someone doesn't have health or prosperity- it's because they haven't "cashed their check". That's exactly what he said. It's all there for you; all you have to do is energize faith and God *has* to

deliver. God has put Himself in that position. And all you've got to do is "name it and claim it," and it's yours!

### **What's Wrong With This Picture?**

The bottom line problem with this is that it makes a tremendous reversal in the role of God and Man. The Bible teaches that God is Sovereign and Man is God's slave. The "name it and claim it" Theology and the Prosperity "gospel" teaches that Man is Sovereign and God is his slave. It places God as being obligated to Man; that by virtue of his faith- God *owes* Man the answer to his prayers- a position that Scripture clearly teaches can never be. This wrong Theology teaches that Man is in the "demand and command" position and God is in the position of the slave- someone who must do as his "Master" has instructed.

Part of this faulty reasoning is that we live in a very indulgent society in modern America. We live in a very self-centered and selfish society- and consequently we have become very self-centered and selfish people. So the "Prosperity, Health and Wealth, Name-it-and-Claim-it" mentality which teaches man how to make demands of God is really nothing more than an attempt to "sanctify" this materialistic way of life- to justify self-indulgent sin- nothing more.

That kind of praying is no praying at all- in fact- it is a perversion of prayer. And to go even further- that kind of praying where Man is the Sovereign making the demands and God is the slave fulfilling the desires of his "master"- actually promotes and does what we are expressly *forbidden* to do in Scripture- and that is take the Name of the Lord our God in vain. It is irreverent. It is Satanic. It is anything but Biblical; anything but virtuous; anything but godly; and anything but directed by the Holy Spirit.

### **Exodus 20:7**

**Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.**

### **Teach us To Pray**

And, I think for us to understand what's going on, we need to sort of relook at this whole matter of how we are to pray. And the focal point of that comes in these words of our Lord Jesus in **Matthew 6:9-13**:

**9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.**

**10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.**

**11 Give us this day our daily bread.**

**12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

**13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

The focal point of this prayer is on the Honor of God and the extension of His Kingdom. And everything has to fit into that context- so that all prayer in a sense is controlled by the Kingdom or by the Glory of God. And this is basic to our prayer life.

In fact, in **John 14:13**, Jesus said,

**And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.**

So real Prayer begins and ends- not with the indulgence of Man; not with the building of my own kingdom; not with getting what I want; not with the elevation of my name- but with the Father being glorified in the Son- with the *hallowing* of God's Name.

Everything in true prayer revolves around Who God is and what God wants and how God is to be glorified. And that is the sum and substance of proper praying. And any praying that is self-consuming; that is self-indulgent; self-aggrandizing; that seeks whatever I want no matter what God wants- any praying that makes God have to deliver to me because I have demanded it takes God's Name in vain, and sins violently against the Nature of God, and against His Will and Word.

And when people come along with "name it and claim it" kind of praying and say that God wants you healthy, wealthy, prosperous, and successful in this life- that that is God's Goal and Will and Purpose for you- know this- these people are not spiritual at all because their preoccupation with self has nothing to do with the extension of the Kingdom and the Glory of God's Name- but with the extension of their own empire and the fulfillment of their own carnal and base desires. We must understand that. The error of this is not just a small semantic difference- but this is a huge error that strikes at the very heart of Christian Truth- namely the very Nature and Glory of God!

And we have three very good examples of this kind of selfless praying- that seeks to honor and Glorify God and not Man- namely in Jeremiah, Daniel, and Jonah.

## **Jeremiah's Prayer**

**Jeremiah 32:16b-25**

**16 ... I prayed unto the LORD, saying,**

**17 Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:**

**18** Thou shewest lovingkindness unto thousands, and recompensest the iniquity of the fathers into the bosom of their children after them: the Great, the Mighty God, the LORD of hosts, is his name,

**19** Great in counsel, and mighty in work: for thine eyes are open upon all the ways of the sons of men: to give every one according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings:

**20** Which hast set signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, even unto this day, and in Israel, and among other men; and hast made thee a name, as at this day;

**21** And hast brought forth thy people Israel out of the land of Egypt with signs, and with wonders, and with a strong hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with great terror;

**22** And hast given them this land, which thou didst swear to their fathers to give them, a land flowing with milk and honey;

**23** And they came in, and possessed it; but they obeyed not thy voice, neither walked in thy law; they have done nothing of all that thou commandedst them to do: therefore thou hast caused all this evil to come upon them:

In other words, here is a man in great distress; a man in great loneliness; a man in despair in terms of ministry insofar as the people have not heard what he has said. But the preoccupation of the heart of Jeremiah is to extol the Glory and the Majesty and the Name and the Honor and the Works of God. There is no preoccupation with his own pain. There is no preoccupation with his own circumstance.

## **Daniel's Prayer**

### **Daniel 9:3-19**

**3** And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplication, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:

**4** And I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments;

**5** We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments:

**6** Neither have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, which spake in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.

**7** O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel, that are near, and that are far off, through all the countries whither thou hast driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against thee.

**8** O Lord, to us belongeth confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against thee.

**9** To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him;

**10** Neither have we obeyed the voice of the LORD our God, to walk in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets.

**11** Yea, all Israel have transgressed thy law, even by departing, that they might not obey thy voice; therefore the curse is poured upon us, and the oath that is written in the law of Moses the servant of God, because we have sinned against him.

**12** And he hath confirmed his words, which he spake against us, and against our judges that judged us, by bringing upon us a great evil: for under the whole heaven hath not been done as hath been done upon Jerusalem.

**13** As it is written in the law of Moses, all this evil is come upon us: yet made we not our prayer before the LORD our God, that we might turn from our iniquities, and understand thy truth.

**14** Therefore hath the LORD watched upon the evil, and brought it upon us: for the LORD our God is righteous in all his works which he doeth: for we obeyed not his voice.

**15** And now, O Lord our God, that hast brought thy people forth out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and hast gotten thee renown, as at this day; we have sinned, we have done wickedly.

**16** O Lord, according to all thy righteousness, I beseech thee, let thine anger and thy fury be turned away from thy city Jerusalem, thy holy mountain: because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and thy people are become a reproach to all that are about us.

**17** Now therefore, O our God, hear the prayer of thy servant, and his supplications, and cause thy face to shine upon thy sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord's sake.

**18** O my God, incline thine ear, and hear; open thine eyes, and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by thy name: for we do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousnesses, but for thy great mercies.

**19** O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my God: for thy city and thy people are called by thy name

Again, the initiation of prayer comes with an affirmation of the Nature and the Glory and the Greatness and the Majesty of God- along with a lengthy confession of his own personal sins and the sins of the people- and Daniel was a Prophet!

This is always the godly perspective- "God, You're in charge; God, You are Glorious; God, You are Holy and I am not!" And whatever I pray must be in line with that concept- or else God is not honored or glorified.

## **Jonah's Prayer**

### **Jonah 2:1-9**

**2** Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly,

**2** And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice.

**3 For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me.**

**4 Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple.**

**5 The waters compassed me about, even to the soul: the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head.**

**6 I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me for ever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God.**

**7 When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple.**

**8 They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy.**

**9 But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.**

This was a prayer for the Glory of God. It was, *"Thank You, God, for Who You are, and bless You for Your Salvation- Your delivering Power."* There was no pleading and begging. And there was no mention of what God owed him, and no mention of Jonah's "rights" in Christ, and no naming and claiming anything. Jonah was simply extolling the glorious Character of God. And that's the heart of what our Lord teaches us in this prayer.

© 2006-2011 by The Covenant of Peace Church. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America

The Covenant of Peace Church 13600 John Clark Road Gulfport, Mississippi 39503 228.832.7729 [www.covenantofpeace.net](http://www.covenantofpeace.net)

Scripture quotations, except those noted otherwise, are from *The King James Version* © 1977 by Thomas Nelson Publishers. Used by permission.

This is a single transcript in a larger series of teachings on the subject of **Prayer**. You are free to reproduce it and distribute it as the Lord leads you- without cost or reimbursement to us with the stipulation that you may not add anything or take anything away from this transcript without the express written permission of The Covenant of Peace Church and that this complete copyright statement be at the end of all copies.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.