

Scripture Reading: James 4

Extra Reading from Psalter: Canons of Dort III/IV, art 9 (pg. 107)

Singing: 222:1-5 – 142:1-4 – 152:1-5 – 172:1-4

Opening thoughts on prayer

- There often is more prayer in a word-less prayer.
- Prayer is the moving of your heart to God in various expressions
- Jesus and Bible saints ‘breathed prayer’ yet had ‘times of prayer’

THE REQUISITE PARTS OF TRUE PRAYER

I. True Prayer needs to come from the heart

A. Scripture describes prayer as *crying* (Ps. 34:15, 17; 56:9; Matt. 15:22)

1. Indicates a real need

2. Will not be presented as a ‘form prayer’

B. Scripture also describes prayer as *extolling – praising* (Ps. 145:1)

II. True prayer needs to be directed to God as He revealed Himself

A. God revealed Himself in Scripture

1. As a prayer-hearing God: Ps. 65:2

2. As a holy God: Heb 12:28-29; Is. 6:1-3

3. As a merciful and gracious God, ready to pardon (Ps. 86:5; Ex. 34:6-7)

4. As the Almighty God, able to save: Is. 50:2

5. As the sovereign God: Daniel 4:35

6. As the wise God: 1 Cor. 1:25; 2 Cor. 12:9

III. True prayer needs to cover the right subjects

A. Prayer is not presenting our personal wish list as if to a Divine Servant

IV. True prayer needs to be expressed in spirit of humility

A. How is humility defined?

B. Humility is heightened by the sense of your real need due to sin

Final Thoughts ...

A. Be encouraged to bring your broken prayers before God!

1. God will never despise a *broken and contrite heart* (Ps. 51:17; 66:3)

2. He hears though He may not answer yet (Matt. 15:22-23)

B. Be encouraged for the Mediator will perfect all prayers laid in His hands before He presents them to His Father (Heb. 7:25)

C. Be encouraged to begin each day with prayer (Ps. 63:1, 8)

TRUTHS ABOUT PRAYER

Prayer is not the submitting of our needs to God
but submitting ourselves to Him.

Talking to me for God is a great thing,
but talking to God for men is greater still. (E. M Bounds)

Prayer is the conscious spreading of my helplessness before God. (Martin)

Prayer is not designed to give God the knowledge of what we need,
But it is designed as a confession to Him of our sense of need. (A. Pink)

Let the goal of all prayer always be the ear of God. (Spurgeon)

Can we be content to meet a loved one only in public? (Hudson Taylor)

Prayer is the key of heaven: faith is the hand that turns it (T. Watson)