

Mike Mozingo—Lead Pastor January 29, 2023

Part 4

Teaching about Prayer and Fasting

⁵ "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 6:5-8 NLT

Instead of long, loud, and fancy, the prayers that move God's heart are <u>simple</u>, <u>authentic</u>, <u>and heartfelt</u>.

JESUS GAVE US A MODEL PRAYER, THE LORD'S PRAYER.

⁹ Pray like this:

Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. ¹⁰ May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us today the food we need, ¹² and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. ¹³ And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one. Matthew 6:9-13 NLT

IT'S A <u>PATTERN</u>, NOT A <u>CHANT</u> - The different parts of the Lord's Prayer are meant to teach us something about God, prayer, and about our need.

¹⁴ "If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins". Matthew 6:14-15 NLT

JESUS MAKES IT CLEAR IF WE WANT TO <u>BE FORGIVEN</u>, WE HAVE TO FORGIVE OTHERS WHO SIN AGAINST US.

¹⁶ "And when you fast, don't make it obvious, as the hypocrites do, for they try to look miserable and disheveled so people will admire them for their fasting. I tell you the truth, that is the only reward they will ever get. ¹⁷ But when you fast, comb your hair and wash your face. ¹⁸ Then no one will notice that you are fasting, except your Father, who knows what you do in private. And your Father, who sees everything, will reward you." Matthew 6:16-18 NLT

Fasting: <u>Denying</u> self of the natural to experience the supernatural; abstaining with a spiritual goal in mind.

- Jesus **expected** His followers would regularly fast.
- Jesus **expected** His followers would regularly pray.

¹⁴ So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. ¹⁵ This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. ¹⁶ So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most. **Hebrews 4:14-16 NLT**

PRAYING DANGEROUS PRAYERS

- GOD SEARCH ME.
- GOD BREAK ME.
- GOD SEND ME.

David's prayer in Psalm 139...

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. ²⁴ Point out anything in me that offends you and lead me along the path of everlasting life. Psalm 139:23-24 NLT

Search Me, O God, and know my heart...

⁹ "The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is? ¹⁰ But I, the Lord, search all hearts and examine secret motives. I give all people their due rewards, according to what their actions deserve." Jeremiah 17:9-10 NLT

- It's easy to pretend we are good at heart, but the Bible teaches us that our heart <u>deceives us</u> and is <u>desperately wicked</u>.
- That's why we need Jesus to not only <u>save us</u>, but to <u>transform</u> us.
- Instead of simply asking God to do something for you, ask God to reveal something in you.
- Show me if I'm doing anything that offends you or hurts your heart.
- Ask God to reveal our fears.
- What we fear the most often reveals where we trust God the least.

Next Steps for me today...

Search Me, O God and reveal my heart.

Choose today to pray daily.

