

Prayer as Modeled by King David

2 Samuel 7:18-29

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When a man is born from above, the life of the Son of God begins in him, and he can either starve that life or nourish it. Prayer nourishes the life of God. Our Lord nourished the life of God in Him by prayer. He was continually in contact with His Father. We generally look upon prayer as a means of getting things for ourselves, whereas the biblical idea of prayer is that God's holiness, purpose and wise order may be brought about. – Oswald Chambers

Our prayers are too often of the gimme type rather than those that glorify God.

I. Our prayers should exhibit true humility. (v. 8-19)

Humility is the fear of the Lord; its wages are riches and honor and life. (Proverbs 22:4)

Then he continued, “Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. (Daniel 10:12)

Because your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself before the LORD when you heard what I have spoken against this place and its people—that they would become a curse and be laid waste—and because you tore your robes and wept in my presence, I also have heard you, declares the LORD. (2 Kings 22:19)

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up. (James 4:10)

II. Our prayers must acknowledge that God is absolutely sovereign. (v. 20-22)

You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone He wishes.” (Daniel 4:32)

“Remember this, keep it in mind,

take it to heart, you rebels.

Remember the former things, those of long ago;

I am God, and there is no other;

I am God, and there is none like me.

I make known the end from the beginning,

from ancient times, what is still to come.

I say, ‘My purpose will stand,

and I will do all that I please.’ (Isaiah 46:8-10)

The LORD does whatever pleases Him,
in the heavens and on the earth (Psalms 135:6a)

Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power
and the glory and the majesty and the splendor,
for everything in heaven and earth is yours.

Yours, LORD, is the kingdom;
you are exalted as head over all.

Wealth and honor come from you;
you are the ruler of all things.

In your hands are strength and power
to exalt and give strength to all. (1 Chronicles 29:11-12)

All the peoples of the earth
are regarded as nothing.

He does as He pleases
with the powers of heaven
and the peoples of the earth.

No one can hold back his hand
or say to Him: “What have you done?” (Daniel 4:35)

“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And He is not served by human hands, as if He needed anything. Rather, He Himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man He made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and He marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. (Acts 17:24-26)

III. Our prayers must remember and believe God is powerful enough to answer. (v. 23-24)

No one is like you, Lord; you are great, and your name is mighty in power. (Jeremiah 10:6)

We have sinned, even as our ancestors did;
we have done wrong and acted wickedly.
When our ancestors were in Egypt,
they gave no thought to your miracles;
they did not remember your many kindnesses,
and they rebelled by the sea, the Red Sea.

Yet He saved them for his name's sake,
to make his mighty power known.
He rebuked the Red Sea, and it dried up;
He led them through the depths as through a desert.

He saved them from the hand of the foe;
from the hand of the enemy He redeemed them.
The waters covered their adversaries;
not one of them survived.
Then they believed his promises
and sang his praise.
But they soon forgot what He had done
and did not wait for his plan to unfold. (Psalms 106:6-13)

He determines the number of the stars
and calls them each by name.
Great is our Lord and mighty in power;
his understanding has no limit. (Psalms 147:4-5)

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength He exerted when He raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. (Ephesians 1:18-21)

Jesus replied, “Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and it will be done. (Matthew 21:21)

But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. (James 1:6)

IV. Our prayers should be based upon the promises of God. (v. 25-28)

“Now I am about to go the way of all the earth. You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the LORD your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed. (Joshua 23:14)

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The Lord is trustworthy in all He promises and faithful in all He does. (Psalms 145:13)

But in fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which He is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises. (Hebrews 8:6)

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through Him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God. (2 Corinthians 1:20)

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of Him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these He has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. (2 Peter 1:3-4)

V. When we have prayed in this manner, we can then ask God's blessings appropriately because our hearts are aligned with His. (v. 29)

“Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. (Mark 11:23-24)

Prayers Commanded by God:

Enemies (Matthew 5:44)

Salvation of others (Romans 10:1)

Missionaries (Luke 10:2)

Pastors and Leaders (Colossians 4:3; 2 Thessalonians 3:1)

Government authorities (1 Timothy 2:1-3)

Bold and effective witness (Acts 4:29)

Against temptation (Matthew 26:41)

For wisdom (James 1:5)

For suffering (James 5:13)

Healing from the effects of sin (James 5:16)

When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures (James 4:3).