

THE CHRISTIAN WAY OF TALKING TO GOD

Matthew 6: 5-15

Introduction:

Much has been said about prayer yet Christians are still guilty of mechanical and legalistic conversations with God. Every Christian should experience the power and strength in prayer. I believe that the apostles knew this and they asked the Lord to teach them to pray. May the Lord teach us tonight. We will just dwell on our text tonight.

Message:

- I. *The pagan way of prayer (vs. 7-8)*
 - A. Mechanical incantations – “vain repetitions”
 - B. Humanistic thoughts – more words the more likely they will be heard.
 - C. They treat God as an imagery – do not be like them!

- II. *The hypocrite way of prayer (v.5)*
 - A. Selfishness – obsessed with self – in true prayer, the Christian is obsessed with God.
 - B. Pride – boasts of what they are and they have.
 - C. Show-off – “love to be seen of men”

- III. *The Christian way of prayer (vs. 9-12)*
 - A. The essential difference between pagan, pharisaic, and Christian lies in kind of God we pray to (v.9)
 1. He is a personal and loving God (v.9a)
 2. Our approach to Him is not based on etiquette but on the truth – with all honesty and integrity of heart.
 - B. The first three petitions in the model prayer (vs. 9b – 10).
 1. The Holy name of God must be treated as holy – “...hallowed”
 2. He must be recognized as King and Lord – “Thy kingdom come”
 3. His will must be done in our lives “Thy will be done” (Rom. 12:2).

The content of the true prayer are first, God’s concern will be given priority and secondly, our own needs should be comprehensively committed to Him.

C. Our own needs committed to Him.

1. "Give us this day our daily bread"
refers to our daily need – Jesus meets the necessities rather than the luxuries of life. The expression "this day" means we are to live and ask a day at a time (Look at the Israelites being provided with manna...)The Lord provides at the right need and in a proper way.
2. "Forgive us our debts" (v.12). Sin is likened into debts because it deserves to be punished – v.12 also intimates to us that God forgives only the penitent and that one of the chief evidences of true penitence is a forgiving spirit.
3. "Lead us not into temptations but deliver us from evil" (v.13)
It does not mean however that it is the Lord who leads us to temptations rather He leads us through the temptations. The temptation might be on God's part as testing and proving our character. It is the Lord who delivers.

D. Christian prayer is both Spiritual (concerned for God's glory) and intelligent (expressive of thoughtful dependence).

E. Christian prayer ends up with the thought that God has everything, He is everything and that He owns us and control our lives.

Conclusion:

Is our prayer patterned after the Christian way of talking to God?