

INTRODUCTION

- * We are in the third week of a mini-series on the importance of Prayer in the life of a believer, and the assembly.
- * Prayer is communication with God - in worship - that is based upon our relationship with Him.
- * Two weeks ago we considered the incredible privilege that we have been afforded to have spiritual communion with the Creator of the universe!
- * Such an incredible privilege should be seen in the priority that we place upon prayer both as a private act of personal worship and as a public act of collective worship. However, many people still seem to struggle in their "conversation" with God. What do I say? What should I talk about? Jesus' disciples struggled in a similar manner.
- * The first disciples struggled in similar manner. We read in Luke 11:1 "Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."
- * Prior to teaching His disciples "how" to pray, He warned them not to pray with vain repetition: speaking words meaningless.
- * In both Luke 11 and Matthew 6, Jesus taught His disciples to pray in a similar manner including specific concepts. I like to use the acronym P.R.A.Y. to remind myself and instruct others on the various facets of prayer. That stands for Praise - Repent - Ask - Yield. We will be discussing the first two of those facets today.

INSTRUCTION

- I. PRAISE** (cf. Psalm 30:1-5; 99:1-9; 100:1-5; 113:1-3; 145:1-17; 146:1-2,6-10; 148:1-14; 150:1-6; 1 Chronicles 29:13-16; Nehemiah 9:5-8; Isaiah 6:1-5; 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18; Revelation 4: 8-11; 5:11-14)

A. We Should Praise God for W_____ - His P_____

B. We Should Praise God for W_____ - His W_____

*Considering the attributes of God and His worthiness to be praised,
should have a profound effect upon me as come into this Holy God's presence!*

- II. REPENT (Isaiah 6:1-5) ... 4 steps in the true repentance process ...**

A. Co_____

B. Co_____ (cf. Psalm 51: 15-17; Luke 18: 10-14; 2 Corinthians 7: 9-10)

C. Co_____ (cf. 1 John 1:9; Daniel 9:4-5)

D. Co_____ (cf. Acts 26:19-20; Revelation 2:5; Ephesians 4:17ff)

- III. ASK**
IV. YIELD

INTROSPECTION

- * WHAT DOES YOUR PRAYER LIFE REVEAL ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?

- * HOW OFTEN DO YOU CONSIDER THE MAJESTY OF OUR GOD?

- * DOES YOUR PRAYER LIFE CONSIST OF A GROCERY LIST OF ITEMS YOU WANT?

ARE YOU GOD-FOCUSED OR SELF-FOCUSED?

- * WHAT AFFECT DOES THE CONSIDERATION OF GOD'S HOLINESS AND RIGHTEOUSNESS HAVE UPON YOU?

- * IS THERE A NEED TO CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK ... AND THEREFORE ACT?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

It may be helpful to re-read the passage before the discussion.

- * Read Isaiah 6:1-6. What was the focus of Isaiah's experience? What kind of a response did it evoke? How, if at all, does that apply to a group of believers?
- * Read Acts 4:18-31. What would you say was the focus of the believers' prayer? What were the effects of their prayer?