

Transformational Praying

“Lord, Teach us to Pray.” Luke 11:4; Mt. 6:9

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Sept. 16

Revelation is an unveiling of God’s perspective on the last days. It opens and closes with Prayer.

(1:10; 22:20-21) Prayer is foundational to understanding God’s Perspective! (Is. 55:6-8)

The middle of the Sermon on the Mount is specific instruction about how to practice “transformational” prayer. Jesus modeled this so often that his disciples asked him

“Lord, teach us to pray.” (Lk 11:1-4)

➤ “Disciples” want to learn! *“his disciples said teach us...”* Lk. 11:4

Μαθητής (mathētēs) a pupil or learner. It’s used 269 times in God’s word. The word “Believer” (pisteu’o) is only found 2 times! (Acts 5:14 and 1 Tim. 4:12)

Are we really “Disciples” of Jesus or just “believers” in Jesus?

➤ “Disciples” need to pray! *“teach us to pray...”* Προσεύχομαι (proseu’chomai)
From Pros: Toward and Euchomai: Seek God

Prayer involves a deliberate shift of focus toward God! 2 Cor 3:18

“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed (Transformed) into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

Matthew 6:9 *“After this manner ...pray ye:”*

1. **“Our Father”** Prayer is based on a Relationship that’s Personal!

A. God is not everyone’s “Father”. Jn 8:44 *“Ye are of your father the devil...”* (Jn 1:12)

Mt 7:9-11 *“Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?*

Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts

unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things...” “Good”

Agathos’: truly Beneficial (Ro. 8:28; 2 Cor. 12:9)

B. No Relationship → No Responsibility! (Mt. 7:21-23) *“Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not ... in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”*

1) Then Jesus closed his message with the parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders.

“whosoever heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them is like unto a wise man” vs 24-27

➤ Information without application will eventually produce Rejection & Destruction!

“Great was the fall of it” Vs 27

➤ Information (Truth) + Application (Trust) = Transformation!

2. **“Which art in heaven”**: Based on a Perspective that’s Eternal.

A. Life looks different when you see through “Heaven’s Eyes!”

1) Moses *“chose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God...”* Heb. 11:25

Because *“he had respect unto the recompense of reward”* Vs 26

2) Jesus *“for the joy set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down on the right hand of the throne of God”* Heb. 12:1,2

3) Jacob reacted because he had a limited perspective. *“all these things are against me.”* Ge 42:36

4) Joseph: Gen. 50:20 *“ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good”*

5) John was exiled on Patmos for his witness, but Jesus met him and gave him the Revelation!

Rev . 10:10,11 John was told to eat a book handed to him by God’s angel. *“and it was in my mouth sweet as honey:...as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter.”*

Conclusion:

1) God’s plan often involves both the sweet and bitter!

Paul knew a measure of both. 2 Cor. 12:7-10 *“lest I should be exalted above measure, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan... For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.”*

2) God uses both the sweet as well as the bitter to “season” (prepare) us.

Ro 8:18,28,29 *“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 28 For we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. 29 ...to be conformed to the image of his Son”*

Application:

God’s trying to transform us through a prayerful process that requires:

- Faith in a personal relationship with Him! *“our Father”* (Jn 1:12; Ro. 5:1; Heb. 11:6)
- Focus on God’s eternal perspective. *“which art in heaven”* (2 Cor. 3:18; 4:4-6; Ro. 8:28,29)

