

Supplication & Prayer

Messages in the “Supplication” Series:

1. **J. Wilbur Chapman’s Thoughts on Prayer (FIVE “Ps” of PRAYER)**
2. **THREE ASPECTS OF PRAYER**
3. **THE MYSTERY OF UNANSWERED PRAYER**
4. **AN ANSWER FOR DAVID**

J. Wilbur Chapman’s Thoughts On Prayer

(5 “Ps” of PRAYER)

Andrew Murray’s book on “With Christ in the School of Prayer” is a good book for all of us. This is the schoolroom for the school of prayer, and this is the first lesson. Let us read \reference {Matt. 6:6}{Matthew 6:6}, “But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.”

In a Bible of one of J. Wilbur Chapman’s friends was an outline on the margin for this very passage, Matthew 6:6:

1. **Period for prayer—‘When thou prayest.’**
2. **Place for prayer—Enter into thy closet.’**
3. **Privacy of prayer—‘Shut thy door.’**
4. **Persons in prayer—‘Pray to thy Father.’**
5. **Promise for prayer—‘He shall reward thee.’**

Have you a closet in your home for prayer? “Enter in, shut the door, pray to thy Father.” “Why,” you say, when you rise from your knees, “I don’t believe he heard it. I don’t believe he heard a word.” I don’t believe he heard it, either. The trouble is with your haste, my brother. You cannot enter unceremoniously into the presence of the President of the United States; how much more must you revere the presence of God?

My prayer-life must be the life that Jesus Christ would live. Then it must be in his name. When I have “surrendered all,” as we sang, I have the right to use his name, and “he shall reward me.” He has promised it.

There are three things that give us the right to use a name:

1. A Legal Union. I have the right to use the name of my business partner.
2. A Life Union. It is my privilege to use the name of my father.
3. A Love Union. My wife has a perfect right to use my name.

For all of these reasons we have the right to the use of the name of Christ.

There is a name that is above every name. It sets the angels singing. Plead it; plead it. “Lord, teach us to pray.” Oh, teach me. Thou didst teach George Mueller and Andrew Murray—teach me. Can you say it, my brother, and mean it—“Lord, teach me to pray”? -- J. W. C.

Three Aspects of Prayer

Text: James 4:1–2

Introduction:

- We all desperately need to learn how to pray.
- Our failures are all prayer failures.
- There are three aspects of victorious prayer.

I. UNOFFERED PRAYER

- We try to get what we think we need by using our own strength.

Illustration: Boy didn't use all his strength to move a huge stone.

Illustration: Boy stole a sour orange when by asking he would have had more good oranges than he could carry.

- Prayerlessness is sin, 1 Thessalonians 5:17, Luke 18:1.
- By not praying we miss out on all the good things God has for us.

Illustration: John Bunyan's quote about the relationship of prayer to sin.

- There is no substitute for prayer.

II. UNACCEPTABLE PRAYER

- James 4:3
- God is not going to underwrite our selfish motives by answering such prayers.

Illustration: A husband would not finance his wife's affair.

- God supplies all our legitimate needs, but never our selfish desires.

III. UNDENIABLE PRAYER

- How can we pray so that our lives are linked with the omnipotence of God?

James gives five principles of undeniable prayer.

1. -Sensitivity to the Spirit, James 4:5.
2. -Submission to the Father, James 4:6
3. -Standing against the Devil, James 4:7
4. -Separation from the world, James 4:8
5. -Seriousness in our purpose, James 4:9

Conclusion:

- James 5:16b

The Mystery of Unanswered Prayer

Text: Isaiah 55; Matthew 6: 9-13

Introduction

- I've talked to many folks over the years on the strange mystery of unanswered prayer.

If the request is wrong, God will say, "No."

- Like us, the disciples made inappropriate requests of Jesus, and he said, "No."

If the timing is wrong, God will say, "Slow."

- Like children, we dislike the words, "Not yet," as God shakes his head at us.
- God has reasons for his "Not yet;" we must not insist we know better than he.

If you are wrong, God will say, "Grow."

- Relational discord will cut us off from close fellowship with God.
- When we disobey, God says, "Why should I honor your requests when you don't honor mine?"

When the timing is right, God will say, "Let's go!"

- God wants to move that mountain for us; to change that circumstance; to answer that prayer.
- You'll be amazed at how often God will say, "Let's go!"

Conclusion

- Follow the greatest pattern of prayer of all time: the Lord's Prayer.

An Answer For David

Psalm 13

Psalm 13 was penned when David appeared to have some great conflict in his life. King Saul's accusation and attacks were taking its toll on David, almost to the point, that it was too much for him.

1 His Question

Psalm 13:1-2 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. How long wilt thou forget me, O Lord? for ever? how long wilt thou hide thy face from me? [2] How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart daily? how long shall mine enemy be exalted over me?

He declares that his afflictions lasted a long time.

A Where is Your Presence? === "Forget me"

B. What is Your Purpose? === "how long wilt thou hide thy face"

C. Where is Your Protection? === "how long shall mine enemy be exalted"

2 His Quest

Psalm 13:3-4 Consider and hear me, O Lord my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death; [4] Lest mine enemy say, I have prevailed against him; and those that trouble me rejoice when I am moved.

A. Hear Me == "Consider and hear me"

B. Help Me == "Lest mine enemy say..."

C. Honor Me = Vs. 4 don't let me be defeated

3 His Quota

Psalm 13:5 But I have trusted in thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation. 6 I will sing unto the Lord, because he hath dealt bountifully with me.

The mercy of God is the cause of our salvation. Both are the benefits past and by others to come.

A. My Hope ===== "I have trusted"

B. My Heart ===== "my heart shall rejoice"

C. My Harmony == "I will sing"

D. My Honor ===== "He hath dealt bountifully with me".