**God Speaks Through Prayer – Matthew 6:9-13**

Does the sermon title confuse anyone?

We normally think about prayer as our way of speaking to God, not His way of speaking to us, but prayer is far more than just our voice speaking!

*“Prayer is a relationship, not a religious activity!”* – Blackaby

Healthy relationships don’t have one-sided communication!

Praying to God includes listening, just as much as it includes speaking!

We may not hear God’s audible voice in prayer but according to Romans 8:26-27 we receive much from God through the Holy Spirit when we pray!

God speaks to us, & through us, as we speak to Him through prayer.

Q&A #116 - *Why do Christians need to pray? “Because prayer is the most important part of the thankfulness God requires of us. And also because God gives us his grace and Holy Spirit only to those who pray continually and groan inwardly, asking God for these gifts and thanking him for them.”*

Prayer is our relationship with God being lived out! We turn to Him with thanksgiving and praise, and He turns to us with His grace & Holy Spirit that makes our prayer of thanksgiving and praise even possible in the first place!

This two-way street of prayer is what God often uses to reveal His will to us!

But what about “Scripture Alone”?

* Believing in “Scripture Alone” does not mean that Scripture is alone!

The Holy Spirit is the very presence of God with us, that makes the reception of the Word of God, and the will of God, possible in our lives!

The Holy Spirit comes through prayer! So is prayer important? Absolutely!

The Spirit of God is with us, and is speaking on our behalf when we don’t know how or what to pray. What a gift we have in prayer! Are we using it?

A personal example of prayer in the midst of a difficult situation:

Jesus gave us a model to follow in our prayer life, and I chose to use it!

* ***“Our Father”*** – My prayer started with identifying who God is and the

 role that He plays in my life! He is my heavenly Father!

* ***“who art in heaven”*** – This is more about God’s perspective than it is

 about His location! God sees what I can’t & knows what I don’t!

* ***“Hallowed be Your name”*** – It’s amazing, when you take your attention

 off your situation & place it on God & His glory, how God’s presence

 & truth fill you with hope in the midst of what you’re facing!

* ***“Thy kingdom come”*** – A desire for, & the realization of, God’s Kingdom

 changes not only how we pray but it changes us as well!

* ***“Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven”*** – Only a close relationship

 w/God prompts this response! Our trust in Him must be high!

* ***“Give us this day our daily bread”*** – This is a request for daily provision

 from an ever-present Father! This is God’s grace at work

 providing for our needs as we have the faith to ask for it.

* ***“And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors”*** – This part of the

prayer is the greatest evidence for God speaking to us through prayer!

* ***“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil”*** – Is this a

 request or claiming a promise? Both - Our request, & God’s promise!

* ***“For Yours is the kingdom, the power & the glory forever”*** – However

 you answer my prayer God, You will be the one to receive glory!

 For if I prayed for the right thing, it was God’s Spirit prompting, & if I

 prayed for the wrong thing the Holy Spirit will continue to work on

 my heart until my prayer and His Will are in alignment!

* ***“Amen”*** – This is sure to be! Not because of my words, but because of

 the will of God that gets revealed through a prayer lifted up to Him!

I don’t know exactly how my situation is going to play out, but what I do know is that as I pray, God’s presence, His grace, and His truth are with me!

God speaks through prayer! What will we do in response to this truth?

Experiencing God – pg 175 Prayer is a Relationship!

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