

PRAYER AS WORSHIP

AN EVERYDAY WAY TO WORSHIP BY PRAYING

“Pray without ceasing.

~ 1 Thessalonians 5:17

1. The Usefulness of Prayer

- a. Misunderstanding prayer → if prayers do not get answered, it is useless.
- b. Prayer is mistreated as a ballot box, vending machine, or divine tech support.
- c. Knowing what God is doing (‘right division’) dispels prayer abuse, but what does it do?
- d. Thanksgiving is good, but prayer does more than express gratitude. 1 Thess 5:17-18

2. What is Worship

- a. Worship reduced to the musical portion of church meetings is superficial.
- b. Worship is also obedience, subjection, service, devotion, honoring... Rom 1:25
- c. ... when you show something is most worthy of your time, attention, action, thoughts.
- d. “with my body, I thee worship” expressed highest worth to his wife through marriage.
- e. Attending church, study, learning truth is also worship because it is God-honoring.
- f. Worship ~*def.* Honor given to what is of highest worth.
 - i. *E.g. friend-ship, relation-ship, fellow-ship, worth-ship*

3. Worship Service

- a. You can worship God without singing - Rev 4:10, Acts 10:25, Matt 4:9
- b. You can worship God from anywhere – not just a church building – John 4:20-24
- c. You can worship God alone – not greater because there are more people. Exo 34:8
- d. Worship requires faith, words and doctrine matter – John 9:38, Acts 24:14, Col 3:16
- e. We worship God in the spirit (invisible, heart) not flesh (seen, religion) - Phi 3:3

4. Prayer as Worship

- a. “What does prayer do [for me]? How does it benefit me?” ... reflects what we worship.
 - i. Does your prayer request your life improve; else God is not worth your time?
 - ii. This is the most important reason why we pray: to value God more (worship)
- b. Prayer can be one of the single most true acts of worship.
 - i. It can be done anywhere – does not require corporate gathering, public prayer.
 - ii. It requires faith to pray – else you are just talking at the ceiling.
 - iii. It comes from your heart/soul/spirit – not ritual, religion, show.
 - iv. It is private/personal – no one else sees, not trying to impress.
- c. Prayer expresses the worthiness of God’s presence, purpose, our involvement in his will, our obedience/subjection to him, our need of him, thanks for what he has done.

5. Pray without Ceasing

- a. Paul instructs us to pray without ceasing to continue worship of God - 1 Thess 5:17
- b. Prayer aligns our values (worship) making what we do between prayers acts of worship
- c. When you don’t know what to do, how to decide – pray (worship God)
- d. Before you do something you really enjoy/important – pause and pray (worship God)
- e. When you’re alone with every incentive to serve yourself – pray (we worship God)
- f. First of all ... what is most important, your worship service - 1 Tim 2:1
- g. When we walk in worship of God each day, it changes our mind, heart, decisions.