

A STUDY ON PRAYER

THE PROBLEM WITH PRAYER

Lord, till I reach yon blissful shore, No privilege so dear shall be As thus my inmost soul to pour In prayer to Thee.

—Charlotte Elliott

I. Reminder of how we got here!

- A. Wandering / Lack of Focus
- B. Can we ever eradicate frustration?
- C. These are Natural Problems
 - 1. First, no group is immune
 - 2. Second, let us overcome the shallowness
 - 3. Third, Can we glorify God while putting forth our own petitions?

II. Our Definition—The Believer's Communication with God

- A. Psalm 54:2 model
- B. Consider God (The Receiver of Prayers)
 - 1. Fascination with God's Character—Lord and Giver of Life
 - 2. Fascination with God's Actions—Receiver of Prayers
 - 3. Wonder of God—Love, Holiness, Justice, Mercy, Beauty, Wrath, Life, Perfection
 - 4. Consider talking to a cut-out of Me
- C. Consider the Believer (The Source of Prayer)
 - 1. God gives us the ability to pray
 - 2. Not us, but Christ's mediating work
 - 3. "Pitch to your Strength"
- D. Consider the Communication
 - 1. Proper place and tone—Audience frequently influences communication
 - 2. ACTS / JOY / CAT / Lord's Prayer / Priorities Filter
 - 3. Patterns and Repetition
 - 4. Examples—Where should we go? Should we go?
 - a. Psalms and other Scripture passages
 - b. Isaac Watts / Charles Wesley hymns

III. Facets of our prayer Communications

- A. Last week—We must PLAN our communications
- B. Private Prayer (Practice)
 - 1. Essential
 - 2. Consider a football player
- C. Corporate Prayer
 - 1. Avoiding denies access to one of the richest sources of encouragement & strength
 - 2. Must model for others
 - a. Who we are, Who God is, Why we are coming, Speaking in plural
 - b. Planning to speak normally involves some writing, hence our exercise
 - c. Can they be sincere?
- D. Practical Writing

INCOMMUNICABLE ATTRIBUTES

- **Independent** (Self-existent) "...he does whatever pleases him" (Ps. 115:3; cf. John 5:26; Rom. 11:35-36).
- **Infinite** "from everlasting to everlasting" (Ps. 90:1-2; cf. Pss. 33:11; 93:2; 145:13; Heb.1:8-12).
- **Eternal** "the LORD, the Eternal God" (Gen. 21: 33; cf. Neh. 9:5-6; John 8:58; Rev. 1:8).
- **Incomprehensible** "...beyond our understanding" (Job 36: 26; cf. Isa. 40:18-26; Matt. 11:27; Rom. 11: 33-34).
- **Supreme** (Pre-eminent) "...all things were created by him and for him..." (Col. 1:15-19; cf. Exod. 15:1,11, 18; Rev. 19:11-16).
- **Sovereign** "I will do all that I please..." (Isa. 46:10; cf. Ps. 135:6; Dan. 4:35; Eph. 1:11).
- **Transcendent** "...beyond our reach..." (Job 37:23; cf. Exod. 33:20-23; Ps. 104:1-4; Isa. 40:21- 26; 1 Tim. 6:15-16).
- **The One and Only** "...there is but one God..." (1 Cor. 8: 6; cf. Deut. 6:4; Isa. 45:21-22; 1 Tim. 2:5).
- **Majestic** "In the greatness of your majesty..." {Exod. 15:7; cf. 15:6,11; Job 37:22; Ps. 8:1,9; Jude 25}.
- **Present Everywhere** (Omnipresent) "Do not I fill heaven and earth?" (Jer. 23: 23-24; cf. 2 Chron. 2:6; Ps. 139:7-16; Acts17:27-28).
- **All-Knowing** (Omniscient) "...you alone know the hearts of all men..." (1 Kings 8:39; cf. Ps. 139:1-6; Prov. 3:19-20; 1 Cor. 2:10).
- **All-Powerful** (Omnipotent) "Is anything too hard for the LORD?" (Gen. 18:14; cf. 1 Sam. 2:6-7; Ps. 18:13-15; Rev.19:6).
- **Unchanging** (Immutable) "...you remain the same..." (Ps. 102: 27; cf. Mal. 3:6; James 1:17; Heb. 13:8).

COMMUNICABLE ATTRIBUTES

- **Holiness** "Your ways, O God, are holy" (Ps. 77:13; cf. Isa. 6:3; 57:15; 1 Pet. 1:15-16; Rev. 4:8).
- **Wisdom** "...magnificent in wisdom" (Isa. 28:29; cf. Jer. 10:12; 1 Cor. 1:30; Col. 2:2-3).
- **Truthfulness** (Veracity) "...God is truthful" (John 3:33; cf. Num. 23:19; Isa. 45:19; John 14:6).
- **Love** "...his unfailing love..." (Ps. 33:5, 18, 22; cf. Exod. 15:13; Pss. 13:5-6; 89:2; Rom. 8:38-39; Eph. 3:17-19; 5:1-2).
- **Goodness** "He is good" (2 Chron. 7:3; cf. Gen. 1:31; Pss. 119:68; 145:9; Mark 10:18).
- **Faithfulness** "...he is the faithful God..." (Deut. 7:9; cf. Pss. 33:4; 100:5; 1 Cor. 1:9; 1 Thess. 5: 24).
- **Mercy** "...his mercy is great..." (2Sam.24:14; Neh. 9:31; Dan. 9:9; Luke 1:50,54).
- **Kindness** "...he shows unfailing kindness..." (2 Sam. 22:51; cf. Isa. 54:8; Jer. 9:24; Rom. 11:22).
- **Patience** (Forbearance, Long-suffering) "...his unlimited patience" (1 Tim. 1:16; cf. Neh 9:30; Rom 3:25; 2 Pet 3:15)
- **Justice** "...all His ways are just..." (Duet. 32:4; cf Job 37:23; Ps. 99:4; Luke 18:7-8)
- **Righteousness** "...my righteousness will never fail" (Isa. 51:6; cf. Ps. 89:14; Jer. 23:5-6; 1 Cor. 1:30).
- **Wrath** "...expresses his wrath every day" (Ps. 7:11; cf. Deut. 29:28; Isa. 13:13; Rom. 1:18; 5:9; 9:22; Rev. 19:15).
- **Jealousy** "...a jealous God" (Exod. 34:14; cf. Deut. 4:24; Nah. 1:2; Zech. 8:2; 2 Cor. 11:2).
- **Grace** "...God, gracious and compassionate..." (Neh. 9:17; cf. Exod. 34:6-7; Isa. 26:10; 2 Tim. 1:9; Titus 3:5-7).