

New Testament Prayer – 2

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Meaning of Prayer

Def. PRAYER – Addressing God in any way

- Most used Gk. Pros-euchomai = move or be toward + wish or desire = moving towards God with our desires
 - **Pro.13:12** – Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but when the desires come, it is a tree of life
 - God does not want to withhold our desires
 - Always an element of asking
 - Different types: asking, petition, worship, thanksgiving
 - OUR PRAYER REFLECTS OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD
- DIFFERENT MEANING IN OT VS. NT= Righteousness, sanctification, prayer, asking
 - We must see what you can take from OT and what does not apply today
 - ASK – OT – Does not know the outcome
 - ASK – NT – Must ask in faith – **Jam.1:5-8**
 - Asking being fully persuaded
 - If you are not fully persuaded you are not in faith & you will not get anything
 - What is not of faith is sin – **Rom.14:23** – This is worse than what religion considers sin (Breaking the Law)
 - DOUBLE MINDED = Gk. di-psuchos = Double soul or heart = His beliefs, thoughts and his emotions do not agree
- NEW TESTAMENT PRAYER IS BASED ON THE NEW COVENANT – THE WILL OF GOD
 - Praying “IF IT IS YOUR WILL” is denying God’s Testament
 - It is denying His willingness to do what He said He would do

THE NEW TESTAMENT IS THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF GOD

- The Will of God
 - Jesus was the REVELATION OF GOD
 - THE WILL OF GOD = Jesus death, burial and resurrection
- We know the Will of God, we don’t need to ask Him again, He revealed it to us in the New Testament
 - All God’s promises are yes and Amen – **2Cor.1:20**
 - If we ask again we don’t believe what He told us and want a special treatment
 - We are not in faith, we will not get what we ask for
 - We will blame God for our failure
 - **Jam,5:16-18** - Effective prayer is the prayer of believing (righteous by faith)

How to Pray -

Praying in Line with the Last Will and Testament of God

- NOT A FORMULA
 - **Mt.6:5-13** – Jesus’ Instructions ARE ONLY GUIDELINES – **Lk.11:1-4**
 - Traditional church = Became a vain repetition
- TOOLS FOR PRAYER ARE NOT PRAYER
 - Teachings by Yongi Cho, Larry Lea and others based on the Lord’s Prayer = BECAME A FORMULA
 - Other Formulas –
 - Prayer based on **Eph.6:11-18**
 - Books on prayer formulas for each specific need
 - Organizing prayer is the path not the goal; Developing a prayer life is your goal
 - You start being regular
 - ✦ Result: Feel good → Self-righteous → Tired and bored → No longer feel good
 - It may help for a while, but after it becomes boring and a hindrance
 - This becomes religious and legalistic
 - Discipline is not freedom, Discipline precedes freedom

- We must internalize what to do, and then do it (playing music vs. practicing)
- We cannot substitute prayer with the tools for praying
- **GOD WANTS A DYNAMIC (changing) RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU**
 - You change everyday
 - Life changes everyday
 - Because all our needs are met in Jesus, prayer can be more relational in the New Covenant

Questions to Consider

1. God has put in us our desires and He wants to satisfy them. How does Pro.13:12 relate to Jo.10:10?
2. How does our prayer life reflect our relationship with God?
3. Words must be understood in the environment and context they were used. How does that apply to asking and prayer in the old and New Testament?
4. What can we do to ensure that our prayers are in line with the Finished Work of Jesus?
5. Why are Prayer Formulas not effective?