

Teach Us To Pray: Hallowed Be Your Name

Psalm 37:25; Luke 11:1; Matthew 6:9

Read Psalm 37:25. David is saying that as he has aged and is realizing some things he had never realized before. He has learned how to separate the foundational from the fluff; the real from the fake. He has never seen the righteous forsaken.

As we get older, we learn what really matters. Some of these principles are:

- You can't out give God.
- Every day is a gift.
- Having peace is more important than being right.
- Kindness matters.
- Just because you think it doesn't mean you have to say it.
- 1 Corinthians says, "the greatest of these is love." (1 Cor 13:13)
- Joy comes in the morning.
- Laughter is a good medicine.
- Communication is the key to a good relationship.

Good Communication = Good Relationship: In relationships, typically when things are going very well, there is good communication happening. When things are not going so well, there is not good communication happening. When you shut someone out, keeping your thoughts, feelings, and emotions to yourself, it alienates and pushes away that person.

The same is true with God. Your relationship with God depends on the communication happening. There may be times of feeling His presence and hearing Him speak and other times, it feels like David when he said he thirsts for God in a dry and parched land (Psalm 63:1). Many times when you go back and look at these ebbs and flows, it is based on the communication (or lack of) with God. When you are in good communication with God, things are great. When communication is lacking, the relationship suffers.

Jesus shows us how good communication equals good relationship in the way He lived His life. He had mercy, wisdom, and power because He was a man of prayer. There are over 40 times in the Gospels that specifically say that Jesus prays. There are 9 times recorded that Jesus went to a solitary place for prayer alone.

The Lord's Prayer: The disciples didn't just hear about miracles. They witnessed the blind being able to see, the deaf hearing, and the lame walking. They saw Jesus multiply the fish and loaves of bread. Yet the disciples didn't come to Jesus and ask Him to show them how to do a miracle or how to preach a sermon. Instead, they asked, "*Lord, teach us to pray.*" (Luke 11:1) They realized that everything they saw Jesus do and everything they saw Who Jesus was was a result of Jesus being a man of prayer.

The next few weeks we will be diving deeper into the Lord's Prayer and learning how Jesus taught His disciples to pray. It is in this prayer Jesus unlocks the key to intimacy with the

Father. If you want your relationship to go deeper than it has ever been, you have to learn to pray. Good communication is key to a good relationship.

“Our Father”: Read Matthew 6:9. Jesus starts with “*Our Father*”. We are part of God’s family. He is not just something in space, but He is Our Father.

Everything we have with God is based on a relationship. It’s not because of what we do, if we check the right boxes, etc. We are not good enough on our own. God is looking for us to have a relationship with Him.

“Hallowed Be Your Name”: Our communication with God begins with worship. Praise is a response to God because of what God has done for us. Worship is a bit different. It is a recognition of Who God is.

- **Jehovah Jireh** (Gen 22:13,14) the Lord will provide (El Shaddai) The all sufficient one
- **Jehovah Rapha** (Exodus 15:26) the Lord that heals (Elohim) Strong One
- **Jehovah Nissi** (Exodus 17:15) the Lord our banner (Jehovah Sabaoth) Lord of Host
- **Jehovah Shalom** (Judges 6:24) the Lord our peace (El Elyon) Most High God
- **Jehovah Ra-ah** (Psalm 23:1) the Lord is my shepherd (Adonai) Lord
- **Jehovah Tsidkenu** (Jeremiah 23:6) the Lord our righteousness (M’Kaddesh) Lord My Sanctifier
- **Jehovah Shammah** (Ezekiel 48:35) the Lord is present (El Olam) The Everlasting God

Jesus starts the prayer with the worship of God because of Who He is. He is the Alpha and Omega (the beginning and the end), our cornerstone, our daystar, our everlasting Father, and the balm of Gilead. He is the one for Whom the people lined the streets and raised their hands/palm branches and sang “Hosanna. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.” He is King of Kings, Lord of Lords, the Rose of Sharon, the Way, the Truth, and the Light.

When we pray and think only of what God has done, we think of what we need for God to give us. But when we worship, it’s not about us. It’s all about Him.

Discussion Questions:

- How have you seen the principle *Good Communication = Good Relationship* play out in your personal life? In your relationship with God?
- Did you know the difference between praise and worship? How will this difference potentially change how you pray?