

***The Intimacy of Prayer***  
***Matt. 6:9-13***

**Intro:** We wrap up our series on ***Developing a Kingdom Focus*** today by looking at the ***Intimacy of Prayer***. God is not only an all powerful, all mighty, all sovereign King; He is a King who desires deeply to be in an ***intimate*** love relationship with His people and that comes across loud and clear in the prayer we call ***The Lord's Prayer*** and is more correctly referred to as ***The Disciple's Prayer***.

Let's look at this well know passage today and see if we cannot see ***The Intimacy of Prayer*** contained there...

**[Read Matt. 6:9-13/pray/Dismiss Jr. church]**

This prayer was given to us by Jesus Christ, not as a prayer we should pray but more as a model. In fact, as I have studied this prayer it becomes more than a model for prayer—it is about the relationship between the one asking and the one being asked. The picture I see in this prayer is an intimacy between the one praying and the one to whom the prayer is being directed. I see an ***Intimacy in Prayer*** being explained. In fact when Jesus says ***"After this manner therefore pray ye..."*** He is not laying out just the pattern for the words to follow—He told them in verse 8 that the father already knows what our needs are—no this is not just about prayer but the entire relationship, atmosphere and understanding necessary.

The word *intimacy* is defined as *a close personal relationship; a quiet and private atmosphere, a private and personal utterance or action or a detailed knowledge resulting from a close or long association or study*. When I read this definition and then re-read

the passage for today the reality of the fact that this is talking about ***Intimacy in Prayer*** could not be denied.

When our kids were young I can remember each of them at some point climbing up in my lap, laying their head against my chest and telling me just how much they loved me. I would come home from being gone for a few days of training and one of them would climb up in my lap and tell me just how much they missed me, how glad they were that I was home. After this they could ask me for just about anything and they would get it if it were in my power to get for them. Our relationship was so ***intimate*** because they had a thorough knowledge of who I was, what I could and would do and most importantly just how much I loved them.

What Jesus is telling us is that ***"If you want the Father to answer your prayers they need to begin with an Intimate Knowledge of who He is."*** The Bible is very clear on the importance of having this ***Intimate Knowledge*** and its importance.

To get an understanding of this ***intimacy*** lets listen to what some of the writers of Scripture had to say:

In Moses' song after God deliverance from the pursuing Egyptian Army, ***"ho is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders? Thou stretchedst out thy right hand, the earth swallowed them"*** (Ex. 15:11-12).

David, as he was being hunted by Saul, cries out to God for deliverance and for destruction of his enemies tells us of his ***Intimate Knowledge*** of God when he says, ***"And my soul shall be joyful in the LORD: it shall rejoice in his salvation. All my bones shall say, LORD, who is like unto thee, which***

**deliverest the poor from him that is too strong for him, yea, the poor and the needy from him that spoileth him?"** (Ps. 35:10)

The unnamed author of Psalm 71 demonstrates his *Intimate Knowledge* of the God he is praying to when he says, **"will go in the strength of the Lord GOD: I will make mention of thy righteousness, even of thine only. O God, thou hast taught me from my youth: and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works. Now also when I am old and greyheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have showed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come. Thy righteousness also, O God, is very high, who hast done great things: O God, who is like unto thee!**

What becomes clear in these passages is that the writers had an *Intimate Knowledge* of God and used that knowledge when praying to God.

Jesus tells us *"If you what God to answer your prayer then you need to have an intimate knowledge of Him."* When we have that intimate knowledge then our prayers will be built upon that knowledge and God will hear and respond.

**What is it about God that we need to have an *Intimate Knowledge* of?**

**We Need to Have...**

1. **An Intimate Knowledge of His Person—Just Who He is**

a. First; **He is our Fatherly King**

i. 'Our' speaks of the unity; not unity with God but with his other children

1. Jesus doesn't tell us to pray 'My Father'
2. He says pray 'Our Father'

3. Someone has rightly said, *"The heart of a child of God, is a brotherly heart, in respect of all other Christians: it asks nothing but in the spirit of unity, fellowship, and Christian charity; desiring that for its brethren which it desires for itself*

4. When we come our Father with our prayers it is understood that our brothers and sisters are with us and united in our this relationship

5. Therefore, because we have not only an intimate relationship with the Father but also with the rest of His children

ii. 'Father' carries two great ideas regarding our relationship with the Lord

1. The tender, respectful love we should feel for God—like a child feel for their fathers

2. The strong confidence in God's love for us—like a father has for his children:

a. (1 John 3:1) **"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.**

b. John 3:16, **"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."**

c. John 14:21, **"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him."**

b. Secondly, **He is Our Holy King**

- i. The word *Hallowed* – means ‘to make holy or to respect greatly’
- ii. When you love someone you have a respectful and high regard for their name
  1. You defend them
  2. You ‘Hallow’ their name
- iii. In the case of ‘Our Father’ you not only have a high regard and respect but you love
- iv. **III:** When I read the opening of this model prayer I can’t help but think of a young child climbing up in her father’s lap; laying her head upon his chest; looking loving up into his big strong eyes and knowing that everything will be alright.

Now I am in the arms of the one who loves me and the one I love. I am safe.

c. Third, **He is Our Reigning King**

- d. His Kingdom come
  - i. If He is my King then in His Kingdom is where I want to be
    1. ‘Thy Kingdom come’ refers to God’s spiritual reign
  - ii. To pray ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ is to pray that more and more people will enter the kingdom
    1. It out to be our hearts desire that God “reign” everywhere;
    2. That his laws be obeyed
    3. That the gospel of Christ be advanced everywhere, until the world shall be filled with his glory
    4. This is at the heart of the phrase *Thy Kingdom Come*
  - iii. Let His Kingdom reign in me

1. Only when Christ reign’s in our hearts do we find the intimate place to be with him
2. When we pray *Thy Kingdom Come* we are requesting that His reality be evident in our daily lives
3. That reality brings with it that special sense that you we are in **an intimate relationship** with Him
- iv. When we finally find that **an intimate relationship** with *Our Father* then it will be easy to pray...
- e. *Thy will be done*
  - i. It makes perfect sense that we would want God’s will to be done once the peace, and joy, in the Holy Spirit has come to reign in our hearts
    1. The will of God is ultimately good, wise and holy and only by having this intimate relationship with him can we know and do his will
    2. The text speaks of two different places—Earth & Heaven; God’s will is perfectly obeyed in Heaven and it stands to reason that we should want it the same here on Earth
  - f. When we find that **Intimate Relationship With Him** it is like stepping into the phone both and the light going on.
    - i. Everything becomes clear
    - ii. I can see what I need to do
    - iii. And He can look down and see that I truly want to be what he wants me to be.

**We Need to Have... An Intimate Knowledge of His Person, Secondly, We Need to Have...**

2. **An Intimate Knowledge of His Provision—Just What He can do**
  - a. Paul tells Timothy to, “**Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in**

- uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy***” 1 Tim 6:17).
- b. He is telling to remind people that it isn't what we can provide for ourselves that is important but that we learn to trust God to provide.
  - c. The reason many Christians have difficulty in giving to the Lord is because they don't really have this ***intimate knowledge of just what God can do***
    - i. When we finally develop this knowledge then we become acutely aware of what just what is important...
      - 1. ***" Give us this day our daily bread "***
        - a. We must trust God for our physical as well as spiritual provisions in our daily prayers.
        - b. He alone gives blessings without any regrets.
        - c. We look to God alone for our blessings and remain content with what He provides.
        - d. All work done without His provisions is done in vain.
        - e. To those who fear God there is no want.
        - f. He even prepares provisions for us in face of opposition.
        - g. We need food – both physical and Spiritual
      - 2. ***" forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors."***
        - a. We all need forgiveness, but we also need to forgive others.
        - b. Holding a grudge saps us of the energy to love, lift and serve
        - c. By asking God for forgiveness we are willing to admit our sins, weaknesses and areas where we have done less than our best

- d. Refusing to forgive others hinders our relationship with God
  - e. Our debt to God is far greater than what we could repay
  - f. Our only hope is found in God's forgiveness through Christ's death for the sins of world
  - g. Our prayer should be: *"God help us to give what has been given to us."*
- 3. ***" lead us not into temptation "***
    - a. Each of us has a tendency in our flesh to sin.
    - b. Without God's help we will self-destruct through the passions of our sinful nature.
    - c. We must watch and pray that we enter not into temptation
    - d. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.
  - 4. ***"deliver us from evil"***
    - a. We battle not against flesh and blood, but against the forces of darkness.
    - b. Without God's intervention we are all vulnerable to destruction by the devil, demons and wicked people
    - c. Look to God for protection from indiscrete words, gossip, backbiting, anger, jealousy, discontent, rage, revenge, lust, envy, lying, deceiving, and apathy.
    - d. We need to take the evil from within and without seriously
    - e. Ask God to conquer the forces of evil as He fights our battles for us.
- ii. When we have ***An Intimate Knowledge of His Provision—Just What He can do*** then our struggles begin to shrink to a size that is manageable.

***We Need to Have... An Intimate Knowledge of His Person, An Intimate Knowledge of His Provision, Thirdly, We Need to Have...***

**3. *An Intimate Knowledge of His Power—What Power He has Thine is the Power***

- i.* As King He has the power to bring in His kingdom with us or without us
  1. There is a choice to make; we are either with Him or against Him—there is not third option
  2. In Luke 9:50 Jesus told the disciples when they told him about a man who was casting out devils but wasn't one of them, **“...Forbid him not: for he that is not against us is for us”**
  3. Paul, who likely had the most ***Intimate Knowledge***, from an earthly perspective, of the Power of God, said, **“If God be for us, who can be against us”** (Rom. 8:31)?
- ii.* When we have an ***Intimate Knowledge of His Power*** then trusting Him with our needs is easy
- iii.* All we have to do is align ourselves, our thinking, our desires, with His Kingdom plan and nothing will get in our way.
- iv.* When Jesus closes this model prayer with the statement **“For thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory forever”**
  1. He was in affect saying **“This kingdom is going to happen regardless of what or who stands against it.**
  2. When He said to Peter, **“...I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it”** (Matt 16:18) He was

- telling him and us there is not Power in heaven and in earth that can stand against God's power
- v.* From the time Jesus first stepped into the lime light He made it know that everything He did was for two purposes
    1. *Thine... is the Kingdom—*
    2. *Thine... is the Glory*
  - vi.* We have a choice—we can either be living a live that is dedicated to seeing the Kingdom Principles displayed in our lives; bringing God Glory or we can stand in direct opposition:
    1. Stephen made his choice when he was about to be stoned the Bible says that he **“...being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God”** (Acts 7:55).
    2. Stephen had ***An Intimate Knowledge Of Gods Power*** and he saw God's Glory
    3. Paul was standing there and later he would say, **“We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord”** (2 Cor 5:8)
    4. When you have this ***Intimate Knowledge of God's Power*** then what we face becomes easy.

**Conclusion:** What does all this mean? Simply this:  
When we have ***An Intimate Knowledge of God's Person, Provision and Power*** we can have the **“...peace of God, which passeth all understanding”** (Phil 4:7)  
It is only through that deep ***intimate knowledge of the Lord*** that we can gain true peace and calm in our lives.

When my kids would climb up in my lap and lay their head on my chest and look up at me...my heart would melt and I would do anything I could to please them.

Why? Because I knew they loved me and I loved them as well. You see I have an intimate relationship with my kids. Your Heavenly Father wants that same relationship with his kids.