

The 5th Sunday in Lent ~ Sunday, March 18, 2018

“A House of Prayer ~ The Principles of Prayer”

James 4:1-10

3 KINDS OF PRAYER

- **The _____ prayer of a _____ person.**

“What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don’t they come from the evil desires at war within you? You want what you don’t have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can’t get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don’t have what you want because you don’t ask God for it.” (James 4:1-2)

Evil desires = *hedone* =

Instead of turning to our _____ human nature and surrendering to our _____ to get what we want—James says we need to _____ God.

“Ask, and you shall receive.” (John 16:24)

This is God’s _____—He doesn’t want us to do it on our _____. He wants to be our _____ and our Source.

However, instead of asking—instead of _____ God to provide for our needs—we often take matters into our _____ and in doing so, cause all kinds of _____.

Have you said, “Father, I want you to help me to do this?” Are you willing to quit trying, and start trusting, and come to the Lord?

- **The _____ prayer of a _____ person.**

“And even when you ask, you don’t get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.” (James 4:3)

One of the reasons prayer isn’t answered is we’re asking for the wrong thing and with the wrong _____.

“Adulterers! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.” (James 4:4)

James isn’t talking about _____ people or the world of nature, but rather an _____ that’s set up against God and His kingdom. Friendship with the world=_____.

Jesus is described in Scripture as the _____, which makes us, the Church, His _____. We are married to Christ, and as a such, are called to be _____ to Him and _____ before Him. The world is like a _____ that would _____ away our love from Jesus.

When we _____ with the world; when we run with the world; when the _____, ideals, and desires of the world find a home in our _____, we commit spiritual _____, and set ourselves at war with God.

Have you ever committed spiritual adultery?

How pure are your motives in prayer?

- **The _____ prayer of a _____ person.**

Answered prayer should be a _____ occurrence in our lives

Spiritual person = the person whose _____ is right towards God, who asks according to God’s _____ and trusts that God will meet their needs as may be best for them. The person who, even when God says “No,” or answers in ways they didn’t expect, is still willing to trust God and _____ His name.

Can you relate to these three kinds of prayer?

5 PRINCIPLES OF PRAYER

- #1. Be _____ to the Spirit.**

Or do you suppose that it is for nothing that the scripture says, ‘God yearns jealously for the spirit that he has made to dwell in us?’” (James 4:5)

God yearns for our full _____. He wants _____ of us—our first fruits and not our seconds or left overs. God desires with all of His desire that our full _____ be given to Jesus.

Jesus has every right to ask for this because we were _____ for a price—He died for us; He _____ us; and we _____ to Him.

“Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion.” (Ephesians 6:18)

Praying in the Spirit = Letting the Holy Spirit _____ our prayers; it’s letting the Holy Spirit _____ our prayers; it’s letting the Holy Spirit _____ our prayers; and letting the Holy Spirit _____ us to pray!

We need to _____ ourselves—our plans and priorities; our needs, wants, and desires—to the Spirit. When we do this, prayer is transformed from _____ to _____.

“The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” (Matthew 26:41)

Instead of giving up or pushing through, stop and ask the Holy Spirit for _____.

Is Jesus Christ Lord of your life? Do you love Him with your full heart’s devotion? Do you pray more in the flesh or in the Spirit?

2. _____ to the Father.

“But he gives all the more grace; therefore it says, ‘God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’ Submit yourselves therefore to God.” (James 4:6-7)

We want God to _____ our ambitions, desires, and ways. We don’t _____ before the Lord. We don’t _____ the Lord. We don’t let God’s Word _____ in us, and we don’t abide in Him. We just come marching into His presence with a shopping list and wonder why God doesn’t give us what we want.

**How humble are you; how submitted are you?
Whose will do your pray to be done—yours or God’s?**

3. _____ against the Devil.

“Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” (James 4:7)

You sit down to pray and you get _____, interrupted, can’t _____, or feel burdened?

We’re never more _____ in our faith than when we pray. And the enemy _____ it when we pray—when we seek God’s will and power to fulfil His purposes.

Prayer is _____ and the battle is often waged in our _____ the enemy does his best work. He _____ thoughts away, like the birds in the parable of the sower who snatch the seeds of the gospel before they can take root and grow. And he places thoughts in our _____.

“Satan, having put into the heart, the mind of Judas, Judas went and betrayed Him.” (John 13:2)

“Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.” (1 John 4:4 P)

**Do you see prayer as warfare?
How has the enemy tried to keep you from praying?**

4. _____ from the world.

“Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” (James 4:8)

Unconfessed sins, bad habits, and secrets not only create a _____ between us and God, but can keep us from receiving an _____ to our prayers.

Double-minded is to be torn in two _____. It’s having a relationship with Jesus as Lord and Saviour, and at the same time, having a relationship with a particular sinful _____ or habit.

Is there division in your heart?

This happens, especially in those areas that we haven’t _____ to God. And it can be hard to give these things up because they can have such a powerful _____ over us.

- We need to _____ it up.
- We need to _____ and ask God to forgive us and _____ us.
- We need receive the _____ offered to us through the Cross.
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“Who may climb the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? Only those whose hands and hearts are pure, who do not worship idols and never tell lies.” (Psalm 24:3-4)

**Are your hands clean; is your heart pure?
Do you struggle with double mindedness?
What might you need to let go of to get right with God?**

5. Be _____ in purpose.

“Lament and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy into dejection. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.” (James 4:9-10)

Sometimes our prayers are hindered because they’re _____, easily uttered, and soon-forgotten. Although nothing is too small or insignificant to bring to God, prayer is work—it requires _____, pleading, and a level of _____. It involves a _____, and weeping.

“If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and heal their land.” (2 Chronicles 7:14-15)

I’m not talking about whipped up _____. I’m talking about being so moved by the Holy Spirit, so _____, so broken by what breaks the heart of God, that our prayers are saturated with _____.

“I have heard your prayer; I have seen your tears.” (2 Kings 20:5)

**What attitude do you bring to prayer?
When was the last you wept and cried out to God?**