

# Kingdom News

Bible Study - Come Let Us Reason Together. (Isaiah 1:18)

Volume 1, Class 7

July 1, 2010

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

## Boot Camp

### *Christianity 101 - The Basics*

#### Prayer

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

This week our focus is *Prayer*.

We're walking through the following list of basic Biblical Christian fundamentals.

- Forgiveness – What's your flavor of "forgiveness?"
- Repentance – To so agree with God on a particular truth as to align one's self (in word and deed) with that truth.
- Faith – An act of worship, allegiance and honor.
- Obedience – Most often disobedience is the result of us having redefined for ourselves the precepts of God
- Truth – In the words of Pilate, "What is *truth*?"
- **Prayer** – What is it and how do we do it? Is there a relationship between *truth* and *prayer*?
- Sin – You know "sweet in the mouth; and bitter in the belly."
- Righteousness – What is it? How does sin and *righteousness* relate to each other?
- Etc. as the Lord pleases

#### WHAT IS PRAYER?

In very simple terms, *prayer* is a conversation. Often *prayer* involves a petition.

But there are other things we should know about *prayer*. We'll look at only a few:

According to the scriptures prayer ought to be directed at God, in the name of Jesus.<sup>(1)</sup> It is an honor to the Father to give to us, or to do for us, in the name of His Son. So we petition or talk with the Father, in honor of the Son. The Father has ALWAYS wanted us to come to Him through the Son. We see this in the types and shadows of the temple, the priesthood and the sacrifices.

Another thing to know about prayer is that we are directed to "pray without ceasing."<sup>(2)</sup> This is often a problematic concept for many, not because it is an impossible directive. But because we don't understand what it means to "pray without ceasing." The idea of doing anything "without ceasing" makes me want to "cease to do" anything. But see this, Paul said (in his letter to the

church at Rome) “that without ceasing he made mention of them always in his prayer.”<sup>(3)</sup> Again, Paul says to the church at Thessalonica<sup>(4)</sup> regarding their walk before God; “for this cause, we thank God without ceasing...” As if that wasn’t enough, Paul says to Timothy “without ceasing I have remembrance of you in my prayers night and day.”<sup>(5)</sup> Okay ... okay Paul ... now wait ... you’re a busy man. How is it that you can manage to pray “without ceasing?” Or is that a euphemism for something a little less daunting?

To “pray without ceasing,” means to not withdraw your petition from the presence of God. To “withdraw” in this case means to say in essence “never mind.”

To “pray without ceasing” means to stand with your petition in the presence of God; anticipating fulfillment; and hoping in God.

To “pray without ceasing” is to KNOW that God has answered your prayer. But how can we know that our prayers are answered, before the answer is manifest? Let’s talk about that next.

## HOW DO WE PRAY?

Above we said that to “pray without ceasing” is to KNOW that God has answered your prayer. But how does one pray a “knowing” prayer? Isn’t prayer all guesswork anyway? You know, you pray and you guess God heard; and you hope that He’ll answer.

Well the scriptures seem to teach us that we can both be certain that God hears our prayers and we can be certain that He will answer our prayers. How is that?

Let’s take a close look at 1 John 5:14-15 (KJV)

And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

**Prerequisite:** Ask according to His will.

Why? Because God will only do what He has already done. He will only do what He has already spoken. He will only do what accords with who He has revealed Himself to be. And all of these things are revealed in and supported by the scriptures.

**Mandatory:** Know that He has heard us.

Why? Because to ask God for something and then to not believe that He hears your petition smacks of “double-mindedness.” James says that a double-minded person ought not to expect to receive anything from God.<sup>(6)</sup>

**Natural Outworking:** Know that you have the requested petition. How?

How can I know that? Because God said so, that’s how. If you meet the prerequisite and you sustain the mandatory requirement then naturally you’ll look forward to manifest fulfillment. At this point, we’re simply waiting for “time” to catch up with “eternity.”

Another very powerful transaction occurs here. First we petition God according to His will; next we know that He hears us; then we look forward to certain manifestation. Then we see a passage in Isaiah working in reverse. Let's have a look:

Isaiah 55:10-11 (KJV paraphrased) – True of God

[10] For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and does not return, but waters the earth, and makes it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: [11] So shall My word be that goes forth out of My mouth: it shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Here the Lord gives us an analogy of the snow and rain coming down from heaven and watering the earth; which brings forth fruit. He teaches us how that process of reciprocity is representative of His Word going forth to bear fruit. But because we are created in the image of God, He is also revealing to us how our word has the potential to do the exact same thing. Here's what that looks like in reverse:

Isaiah 55:10-11 (KJV paraphrased) – True of Us

[10] For as your petitions go up, and your requests enter heaven, and do not return, but moves the heart of God to bring forth and bud, granting the petition of the asker, and delivering the requests of the inquirer: [11] In like fashion shall the Lord's word be that goes forth out of our mouths. They shall not return to Him void, but the petition shall accomplish our pleasure, and shall prosper in accordance with the request made.

## **IS THERE A COORELATION BETWEEN PRAYER AND TRUTH?**

I'm sure that you know that the answer to this question is "of course." Genuine prayer can only be offered on the basis of Truth. Now you'll recall that Truth is not simply a proposition. "Truth" is a Person; that Person is Jesus Christ. Again, genuine prayer can only be offered on the basis of Who Jesus Christ is. We now understand what it means when Jesus said, that "whatsoever you ask the Father in My name, He will give it to you."<sup>(7)</sup> To ask in Jesus' name is to ask for the things that Jesus would ask for; it is to ask in the way that He would ask.

Prayer and Truth are inseparable. As we come to know Truth, we direct all of our petitions to Him. And all of the petitions (prayers) that we direct to Him, we do so on the basis of the will of God.

*Sr. Editor, JoAnn C. White, sMHG*

### **Scripture References - King James Version (KJV), unless otherwise stated.**

<sup>(1)</sup> John 15:16b; 16:23-24

<sup>(2)</sup> 1 Thessalonians 5:17

<sup>(3)</sup> Romans 1:9 paraphrased

<sup>(4)</sup> 1 Thessalonians 2:13 paraphrased

<sup>(5)</sup> Timothy 1:3

<sup>(6)</sup> James 1:6-8

<sup>(7)</sup> John 16:23b