

Session 40: The Lifestyle of Prayer

(Note: Mike refers to this under the old system as Establishment, Part 10, Session 40).

The Historical Context to what Time it is:

- Israel's progression through the courses of punishment can be pinpointed.
- Israel's Messiah shows up as predicted in Daniel & the prophets.
- Israel at-large rejects and kills their Messiah.
- Israel gets an extension of mercy (1 year – Luke 13).
- Paul is saved on Damascus Road and Christ reveals the mystery...

Ephesians 3:1 For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, ² If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: ³ How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, ⁴ Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)

- Paul writes 13 epistles which are specifically to us and about us as members of the body of Christ living right now under grace.

Romans 11:13 For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office:

- We, as members of the body of Christ, are no longer under the law (as Israel was) but we are under grace.

Romans 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

- – which is significant in that it changes everything about how God is dealing with us today.
- Romans is the first book in the biblical order of our Bible and it is written to establish the believer.

Romans 1:11 For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established;

- Romans 1:1-5:21 teaches us our justification unto eternal life.
- Romans 6:1-8:15 teaches us our sanctification unto function of life.
- Romans 8:16-25 contains the 1st part of our establishment as sons in connection with our sanctification, which has do with our future vocation in the heavens.
- Romans 8:26-27 contains the 2nd part of our establishment as sons, which has to do with prayer.

***Romans 8:26** Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*

Review:

- Prayer, as it concerns ourselves, is not about changing outward circumstances, but it is about changing us inwardly in the midst of those circumstances.
- Prayer for ourselves includes our understanding of Pauline doctrine; (as opposed to Israel program doctrine) in fact prayer's purpose is to activate that doctrine in our minds.
- Prayer is part of the process whereby we are conformed to the image of God's Son.

***Romans 6:17** But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.*

The Process of Edification:

- We are exposed to a form of doctrine.
- We understand the doctrine.
- We believe the doctrine.
- We pray the doctrine.
- We think the doctrine.
- We live the doctrine.

Review, Continued:

- Sonship prayer is the mechanical means by which we:
 - recall the doctrine
 - guide our living to be in accordance with the doctrine.

Space for personal reflection and notes

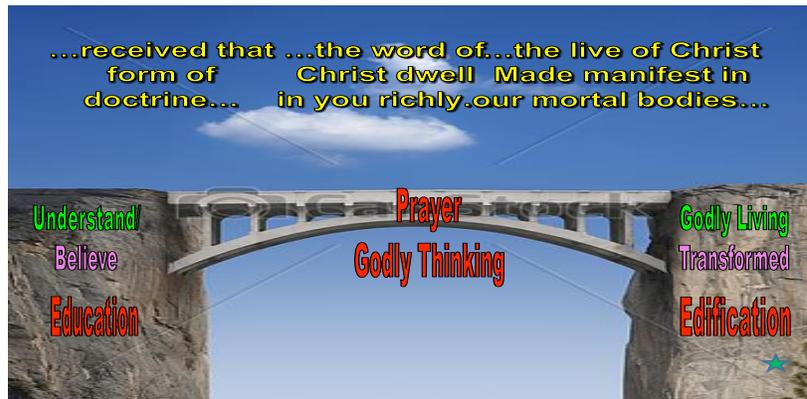
Session 41: The Lifestyle of Prayer, Continued

(Note: Mike refers to this under the old system as Establishment, Part 10, Session 41).

The Process of Edification:

- We are exposed to a form of doctrine.
- We understand the doctrine.
- We believe the doctrine.
- We pray the doctrine.
- We think the doctrine.
- We live the doctrine.

I want to begin with an illustration.



Let me step aside here to say that everything we have been learning has been leading up to this point. Now, we are finally at a place where we take what we know and integrate it into the proper practice of prayer.

And that means that we have to abandon our old concepts of what prayer is, how it works, and what we think its purpose is in exchange for what our apostle says prayer is, how it works and what its purpose is.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

Romans 12:12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

Sonship prayer is designed to work in our everyday lives. It is not so much about secluding ourselves off every day to run through a long list of things we would like God to do. Sonship

prayer is a way of life. By that I mean that when done properly, it permeates every nook and cranny of our lives.

What we have to learn is: instead of sectioning off prayer as something separate from the events of our lives, we seamlessly integrate prayer, in real time, into everything we are doing.

Sonship prayer is a lifestyle which now uses constant spur of the moment prayers, all through the day, to evaluate and align our thoughts, our words and our actions in light of the doctrine we have been learning. As we practice this type of praying, it will become as natural as breathing; it happens so naturally we do not have to stop and think about it.

When I say, 'prayer is not primarily something we schedule,' I am not saying you cannot schedule a time for prayer each day. What I am saying is if this is the only way we carry out our prayer life, we are missing the point.

In the beginning you will have to do this on purpose. So, in order for this to happen, let me exhort you by emphasizing the importance of prayer in Christ being formed in us.

Prayer is designed to take the doctrine we are learning and manifest it in the midst of our circumstances.

In the past, I have talked with you about daily prayer: having a time at the end of your day in which you review your day with your heavenly Father. I talked to you about that in the beginning when we did not know very much about sonship prayer or the doctrine of how Christ would be made manifest in our mortal bodies.

As I said to you back then: just going over your day was going to serve as a kind of rehearsal or practice for something we would do later in a much more practical way. The (slightly advanced) truth of the matter is that we need to pray (on the fly, so to speak) in order to evaluate our thoughts as we are having them and our actions as we are doing them!

Is it a bad thing to do this at the end of the day, as we think back to what has gone through our minds?

- Of course not, as long as we do not stop being instant in prayer during the day.
- Do not replace unceasing prayer in the midst of your everyday living with a recap at night.

Why?

- Firstly, you will not remember it all.
- Secondly, waiting until the end of the day to pray is not consistent with either being instant in prayer or praying without ceasing.
- Thirdly (and I hope you understand this in the way I mean to say it), engaging in only the end-of-day recap is sort of a child's, or beginner's way, of praying.

Session 42: The Lifestyle of Prayer, Continued

(Note: Mike refers to this under the old system as Establishment, Part 10, Session 42).

A mature, experienced son is able to do that same work of referencing the doctrine at the start of things, in the thought process, and correct any wrong words or actions before they take place.

Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Ephesians 1:15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,

Ephesians 3:17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,¹⁸ May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; ¹⁹ And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

(Aside discussion on Romans 12:3-8)

Prayer is designed to take the doctrine we are learning and manifest it in the midst of our circumstances.

Ephesians 4:29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

A Word of Caution:

As we start this process of continuing instant in prayer throughout our day as part of the edification process, we do not want to get bogged down with long introspective examinations of our actions which keep us from functioning. Depending on what you are doing, you may need to come back and revisit some situation with your Father later in the day (especially in the beginning).

Understand that this is a process which you will become more familiar with and more skilled at over time. Eventually, you will be able to go through this process instantly. (Instant in prayer)

Space for personal reflection and notes

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Session 43: The Role of Prayer in Edification Continuing in Prayer

(Note: Mike refers to this under the old system as Establishment, Part 10, Session 43).

Again, the more you do it, the more natural it becomes - practice, practice, practice.

And by the way, this is who you were meant to be! I am not asking you to become a freak; this was supposed to be the norm.

- Instead, Satan's policy of evil has replaced the godly norm with a facsimile, the merit of which lies solely in making the flesh feel good about how spiritual it is. (I can say that because I have been there.)

A prayer lifestyle is how sons/daughters are supposed to live:

- In constant contact (prayer) with our heavenly Father,
- And adjusting our thoughts (renewing their mind),
- Adjusting our word ...
- ... And adjusting our conduct and behavior to line up with the doctrine so that Christ's life is manifested in us!

We must have all of the process working, not just the 'I pray all the time' part of the equation. It does no good to pray 100 times a day or to spend half a day in prayer, if those prayers are not:

- In line with God's revealed will in Paul's epistles.
- In accordance with the doctrines in Paul's epistles.
- Serving as part of the edification process for others or us.

(Aside on doctrine, suffering, hope of glory and godly love, continued. Romans 12:3-8 is covered. There are no notes or formal break on the video Mike just continued.)

Romans 10:1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. ² For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. ³ For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

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Session 44: The Role of Prayer in Edification Continuing in Prayer

(Note: Mike refers to this under the old system as Establishment, Part 10, Session 44).

Now let us go back and pick up that outline we gave at the beginning of today's study:

- We are exposed to the doctrine.
 - We understand the doctrine
 - We believe the doctrine.
- } These happen in the assembly

Then:

- As we go about our day...
- ...constantly talking to our heavenly Father about those things we are engaged in or will be engaged in...
- ...those prayers are meant to connect the doctrine to our thoughts and actions...
- ...and strengthen our relationship (as a son) with our heavenly Father.

If you want to come back later and review it with your Father at the end of your day, then do so.

In the beginning especially, we will need to continue to review our day with our heavenly Father. Until we become familiar with the process, we will not be able to instantly compare our actions with the doctrine in that moment. Again, you will get better and better at this.

No matter what we do, we all tend to go slower in the beginning. Lack of experience makes us all uncomfortable and uncertain to start with. I say that because I do not want you to give up when you find yourself being somewhat uncomfortable with this process. Do not let that deter you; that is how it should be.

As you might have guessed, we will get accustomed to this at different rates. It is not the same for everyone. Some will pick this up more quickly while others will need more time.

Is This Type of Prayer Necessary?

- The natural tendency of people is to resist change.
- We like what we are used to.
- Change takes time and effort, and for many people, they are just too comfortable with what they are already doing to change.
- But you have already done the hard part; you have already learned the error of the old way of praying.
- Now, we just need to take what we now know and begin applying it the proper way.

But that still does not answer the question: ‘is all of this really necessary? Do I have to go through my day constantly praying about the things which I hear and see, the things which I think and say, or the things which I do?’ That is a good question. In fact, it is one that I asked myself.

I have no doubt that some will read/hear this study and they will conclude this to be too much. If you are one of those people, then all I can say is: you are an adopted son, make a sonship decision about what you will and will not do. God is not going to be angry with anyone over this. That being said, do not think that both decision choices produce equal results – they do not.

That is one of the reasons why it is worth the time and effort to create a prayer lifestyle.

My understanding is this kind of continuing instant in prayer lifestyle (which is actually a ‘sonship lifestyle’ that is an uninterrupted communication with our Father about the various forms of doctrine which are meant to be employed in our everyday lives) is the way this is intended to work. How do we know that? We know that because of the exhortations by our apostle.

Romans 12:12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

1 Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

What does it mean to “continue” and to be “instant” in prayer?

Oxford English Dictionary

Instant: 1) happening immediately

Continue: 1) persist in an activity; (1n.) to remain in constant operation.

Putting the two together, we have an exhortation to persist in prayer that happens immediately in an “instant!” Prayer that is put off until our prayer time or quiet time is not instant nor is it constantly in operation. We may pray from time to time, but we are not persisting in prayer, which is the idea Paul gives us in Romans 12.

By the way, the definition for “persist” is interesting.

Oxford English Dictionary

Persist: 1) to continue firmly in a course of action in spite of difficulty or opposition.

We could put all of the ideas together to say it this way: we are to constantly persist in praying instantly. Of course, Paul said it best: “continuing instant in prayer.”

Continuing is a part of speech called a ‘gerund,’ which, in this case, indicates a continual present tense that tells us that those “instant” prayers are for the very moment we are in.

Now, take another look at the 1 Thessalonians verse.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

If you think prayer only happens when we stop what we are doing to bow our heads, etc., then this exhortation is problematic. You might say that praying every day would be praying without ceasing, but the problem is that it would not be “continuing instant in prayer;” it would just be daily prayer.

(Aside on the creature and gloried body – no notes.)

2 Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Summation:

- *Prayer is about changing us inwardly in the midst of those circumstances.*
- *Prayer must be accompanied by and attached to an understanding of Pauline doctrine.*
- *Prayer is a part of the means to an end.*
- *Prayer is part of the means by which we get those things which are in accordance with the revealed will of God.*
- *Prayer is for everything. Since prayer is what activates the doctrine in our minds, it is designed to be a necessary part of every part of our life, all through the day.*
- *Prayer is meant to seamlessly integrate into our everyday lives in real time (hence; instant in prayer.)*
- *Prayer is part of the intimate, adopted-son relationship between us and our heavenly Father.*
- *Real sonship prayer is a lifestyle.*

Space for personal reflection and notes

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