

“MAKES ME WANNA SHOUT...!!!”

There is an old song from the 1990's that says it all for me. Maybe some of you know it or remember it. It goes like this:

“When I Think about the Lord,
How He saved me, how He raised me,
How He filled me, with the Holy Ghost.
How He healed me, to the uttermost.”

“When I Think about the Lord,
How He picked me up and turned me around,
How He placed my feet on solid ground.”

“It makes me wanna shout,
Hallelujah,
Thank you JESUS,
LORD, your worthy, of all the glory, and all the honor,
And all the praise”

Yes, it makes me want to shout out, “Hallelujah.” God is so, so good. What do you think about when you do think upon the Lord your God? Is He a good, good God? Hasn't He done marvelous things throughout history? Isn't His Word sure and true? Or do we look at Him as the One who is to give me everything I want right now?

I look at many believers today and I wonder why they believe or even acknowledge God in their lives. Is it because He will give you everything you want – even if it isn't good for me – but I want it and He will give it to me, anyway. You see, what I am really saying or asking is, “Who and what, is your God?” Is He the one who must give you everything you want because He is such a loving and gracious God? Is He the God who is used at your disposal? Or is He the one and only true God and I am the one who is “at His disposal?”

I know that might sound a little crude and harsh but that is exactly what I am saying. In this hour it seems as though God is to do everything that I want and say instead of everything that He wants and says will take place. We have intercessors who are praying that things will be accomplished – but that they will be accomplished the way they want things to be accomplished – not necessarily God's ways. Do we know what all of His plans are? I don't think so.

I know I am treading on “thin ice” here. Many people think and believe that they know exactly what God wants in every situation – whether it is found in His Word or not. It doesn't matter. It is exactly what we think and therefore, we truly believe and actually know therefore what God wants – it is MY WAY because I am totally convinced that I hear from God. Well, that may sound good and it may make us feel good but is it truly God's heart.

Everyone is praying for what they believe should take place and happen – whether it be in world events, local politics, our little section of the world called our church or even yet, within our own lives. After all, we pray this way because I, and the group I may belong to, think this way. I am sure that I missed some areas but I think you get my drift.

The problem that I am seeing is that many believers, whether we want to say it or not – have an agenda. Many times it is their own agenda or many times they are incorrect in their thinking of what God’s agenda may be about a situation. That is the problem that I see. We think each one of us or our little group knows the heart of God in this hour. We pray and ask for the things in which we believe things should happen or take place – whether in our own specific life or in the general things of this world.

When the disciples were with Jesus, He gave them a specific way that they were and therefore, we are, to pray. It is found in Matthew 6:9-13 and it is commonly known as “The Lord’s Prayer.” Jesus goes on to tell them what their prayers should be like as He states, *“After this manner therefore pray ye...”*

“Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. ¹⁰ Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil... - Matthew 6:9-13 (KJV)

That was the example of the type of prayer that we as believers are to now be praying. In this prayer it encompasses everything that we need to pray for. Unfortunately, we take this example in which Jesus gives to us personally Himself, and we “put it on the shelf.” We really do not use this prayer or the format of this prayer very much anymore. It seems as though we think we must “move on” from this “simplistic type of prayer” and now we need to be praying even more powerful prayers that we think are needed for this hour instead of the prayer that Jesus teaches us. Hmm....

Is that what Jesus was telling His disciples? I know that we see other different types of prayer throughout the Word of God. But we are talking about Jesus here and the “changes” that He was showing His people, His disciples, and making at that time – in this instance it concerns how to pray to the Father correctly.

Actually, we know that in Matthew 6, when Jesus gave this example of prayer that not all of His disciples were actually present. In Matthew 5 – 7, the Sermon of the Mount, only a few of His disciples were called and with Him at this time. However, we see in Luke 11:1-4 that when **all** of His disciples were finally chosen, the topic came up again. Jesus then proceeds to express the **same prayer**. Jesus, when asked by His disciples concerning how should they pray, gives them **the same exact prayer**.

We must recognize that these are two separate instances in which Jesus uses the **same prayer** to express how the disciples, the ones who were going to carry His message to the world, were to pray. He doesn’t go into all the different types of prayers that were used in the Old Testament. He simply gives them the same prayer – twice - in exactly the same words. Hmmm...

What Jesus was telling His disciples, as well as us today, was that our prayers need to be simplified and to the point. The “point” being that God has everything under control and He knows exactly what needs to be accomplished. The only thing that we are to do is recognize this and truly desire and then express to our God to, *“Let your Kingdom come, Let your will be done.”* Wow!!! Jesus isn’t telling His disciples that they were to know the mind of God. He was really telling them that they couldn’t - so don’t even try.

What He was telling them was that they were to simply believe that the Father has everything under His control and command and that we are to leave it to Him. We are to simply pray that **His will be accomplished** and that **His Kingdom be brought forth**. That is very much different than what we have been taught and how we pray today.

What this prayer that Jesus teaches His disciples, **twice**, was simply a prayer that trusts totally in God, the Father. What will take place has nothing to do with what we think or even what we may want. Jesus tells His disciples, whom we are today, that we are to put away what we may think that God wants and will do. We are to simply let God be God. He knows the end from the beginning.

We need to and must grasp and understand that we are to be in total agreement with what God does and doesn't do – no matter what we may think or even desire. Jesus simply tells us that as we pray, we are to simply pray for God's will to be accomplished. However, there are some things that we are to continually be seeking God to release.

We see this in this prayer. As His people, we are to pray that God gives His people their “*daily bread*;” we are to pray that God will “*forgive us*” of our sins and that we, as His people, are to “*forgive others*.” Wow!!! How often do we forget or leave that out of our prayers. Yet, that is fundamental to the prayers that Jesus teaches us that we are to be praying.

We are then taught that we are to pray and ask that God would keep us from temptation, as well as the snares of the devil. We are to pray that He would deliver us from the evil desires and entrapments of the devil. That is what we are really to be praying for. We must be praying and continually asking God to keep each one of us from falling into the traps and snares of the devil who desires to take everyone out and away from their God. However, we forget the importance of the prayer that Jesus taught – twice – to His disciples.

Yes, we are to pray and come against the forces of evil and darkness. Yes, there may be “intercessors” who will pray for God's will to be accomplished throughout the earth, not what they think or want. However, true prayer, the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples and each of us today is that we must first believe and know that God is the Father of all things and that we are to desire and want His Kingdom, and His Kingdom alone, to come forth. Most of all, we are to pray that **HIS WILL BE DONE**. Even though we may think that we know what His will is, we really don't know it in its fullness. Only God the Father truly knows that.

Now, please understand that I am not telling anyone not to pray. What I may be saying is that we are to check ourselves on how we are praying. Whether we may realize it or not, we may be praying from a specific angle or point of opinion. Let's face it. I have been in different “pastoral prayer meetings” where the prayers have not lined up at all with each other nevertheless with God. One prayed for one thing to happen while the other pastor prayed for their way of thinking to happen and take place. There was not any unity but rather there were differences of “political opinions” and not God's ways and means to actually come forth – even though God will bring His ways to pass whether we agree with Him or not.

That is not true prayer at all – even though both sides thought they were right – they were both incorrect. It was not really prayer – at least not the prayer that Jesus taught us to pray. Each side thought that they were correct. In a political debate they would have the right to say what they thought. However, when it comes to prayer we all must pray the way Jesus taught us to pray to the Father in Matthew 6 and Luke 11.

We must remember that when it comes to prayer only God really knows how things are truly supposed to turn out or how it is to be. We have been given a very important aspect of prayer and that is praying for the needs of others in the Body of Christ to be met. That the believers would have bread on their table; that they would continually ask God to forgive them of their sins and most importantly, every believer **MUST** be forgiving of others. Wow!!! That is a big one!!! If we would all do that the Body of Christ would be in much better shape. Hmmm....

We are to continually ask God to protect our fellow believers and ourselves from the temptations and the evil desires of the flesh. These are very big issues that are still in the world today. However, many intercessors simply ignore these areas in their prayers and they go into areas that God is the only one who knows how and when everything will turn out. Yes, when we pray, we can pray in these areas; but not the way we may be thinking. Only God knows what will take place. We simply need to be in agreement for **His will** to be accomplished. We may not know His will but ultimately it will be for His Kingdom to come forth.

I know what I have written may put a hole into some of the ways we may be thinking and praying. I am not saying to do away with intercessory prayer – no not at all. What I am saying is that we need to review our intercession and truly allow it to line up with the way God truly desires to pray for His Kingdom to come – according to His will and His plan – not what each of us thinks should be accomplished.

In 1Timothy 1:1-2, Paul tell us, *“I exhort therefore, that, **first of all**, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; ² For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.”* Paul exhorts the people to pray for the secular governments and leaders, not to change their minds about Jesus, but rather so that the believers in Christ may live peaceable lives in Christ. In 1Peter 2:13-14, Peter exhorts the brethren to pray for and to submit to the laws and ordinances of the secular governmental leadership but in so doing never forget that you are first, the children of God.

Yes, we may pray for our government and for the governments and countries of the world. However, we are to pray primarily for each of the individual governmental leaders and officials to come to salvation – first and primary, not for them to first change their ways of governing. We must always remember that the Kingdom of God is always, first and foremost, about people and people accepting and believing in Jesus.

That is what the Kingdom of God is all about. It is not a political system but rather it is all about God, the Father, Jesus, the Son and the Holy Spirit reaching out to people. This earth and even the heaven we have today will all pass away and the New Jerusalem will come forth where we will dwell with our God forever!!!

Remember, how I began this essay. I began it with the words of a song. It is all about Jesus and how He saved me. How He saved you. And... how He desires and wants to save as many people who would believe and accept Him as their personal Lord and Savior.

As Jesus told us in the “Parable of the Sower,” the seed of the Good News of the Kingdom of God has been shed abroad to everyone in every walks and position of life. Unfortunately only one out of four will truly and fully accept Jesus for who He is for their **entire life** and make it into the Kingdom of Heaven. We need to pray to the Lord of the Harvest for the lost souls of this world to receive Jesus and remain with Him for their entire lives so that we all would enter His Kingdom!!!

Yes....

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How He filled me, with the Holy Ghost.
How He healed me, to the uttermost.”

“When I Think about the Lord,
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How He placed my feet on solid ground.”

“It makes me wanna shout,
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LORD, your worthy, of all the glory, and all the honor,
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It is all about people being saved and being with our God forever and ever.

“It makes me wanna shout, Hallelujah, Thank you JESUS!!!”