

March 5, 2017--Questions for Personal and Small Group Reflection

⁵ “Whenever you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites, because they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by people. I assure you: They’ve got their reward!” ⁶ But when you pray, go into your private room, shut your door, and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁷ When you pray, don’t babble like the idolaters, since they imagine they’ll be heard for their many words. ⁸ Don’t be like them, because your Father knows the things you need before you ask Him.

⁹ “Therefore, you should pray like this:

Our Father in heaven, Your name be honored as holy.

¹⁰ *Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

¹¹ *Give us today our daily bread.*

¹² *And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

¹³ *And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.*

[For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]

¹⁴ “For if you forgive people their wrongdoing, your heavenly Father will forgive you as well.

¹⁵ But if you don’t forgive people, your Father will not forgive your wrongdoing. Matt 6:5-13, HCSB

- 1. Knowing the God to whom we are praying (v 9).** How much has your knowledge of God grown this past year? What could you do to get to know His character, nature, will and ways better in the coming months?
- 2. Praying for God’s reign (v. 10).** In what ways is God’s rule expanding in your life? Your family’s lives? The corporate life of this church? What are some ways it needs to?
- 3. Praying for daily needs (v. 11).** How would praying “just for today” change your petitions? In what ways would it affect your worries?
- 4. Praying for relational healing (v. 12).** Consciously call to mind those who have hurt you. How do you typically respond to them? Now, by God’s grace, forgive them. Consciously call to mind sins of commission or omission this week. Ask God for His healing forgiveness poured out in your soul.
- 5. Praying for God’s protection (v 13).** In what ways has/is Satan trying to tempt you to doubt God’s truth? Question His goodness? Reject His will? Pursue your own desires? Refuse the lies of the devil. Reaffirm your trust in God’s character and ways. Rejoice in the protection provided for you in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 6. Why we pray (v. 13b).** How much of your praying is because you want the world to see and understand that Jesus is still in charge (Kingdom), Jesus is still mighty to save (Power), the dark world needs to comprehend Christ’s magnificence (Glory)?