

Prayer

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I. Introduction.

- A. The Christian cannot live without prayer.
- B. The Biblical pattern to prayer. (Hebrews 9:24)

II. The Old Testament tabernacle.

- A. Three places: the outer court, the Holy Place, the Holy of Holies.
- B. The items of the tabernacle.
 - 1. The candlestick
 - 2. The table of showbread.
 - 3. The altar of incense.
 - 4. The ark of the covenant.
 - a. In it was Aaron's rod, the Ten Commandments, and a pot of the manna they were fed with in the desert.
 - b. The glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle to dwell there in Person.
- C. The Old Testament tabernacle was a pattern of worship for the New Testament believer since Christ is not in this holy place - He is in heaven itself to appear in heaven before God Himself. (Hebrews 9:24)
- D. Items not mentioned in Hebrews 9: the gate, the brazen altar, the laver of cleansing and the altar of incense.
- E. A son and a jester had unmediated access to the king in the ancient world.
 - 1. The two approached differently.
 - 2. The son approached with respect and deference and we are to imitate him.

III. Steps through the heavenly tabernacle.

- A. The gate: Christ's death.
 - 1. Christ died outside the gate. (Hebrews 13:12)
 - 2. We are to thank Him for this.

B. The brazen altar: presentation. (Hebrews 10:10)

1. We do not rush into God's presence as a result of our own righteousness.
2. The only way is through Christ who was offered on the brazen altar.
3. We are to acknowledge this before God.

C. The laver: spiritual cleansing. (1 John 1:9, Proverbs 28:13)

1. We are to confess sin.
2. We are to forsake sin.

D. The candle stand: wisdom.

1. Christ is the light of the world.
2. All the wisdom one needs for the challenges of the day is available to be claimed. (James 1:5)

E. The table of showbread: strength. (Psalm 104:15, 27:14)

1. Bread strengthens man's heart.
2. God also strengthens one's heart.

F. The golden altar of incense: God's delight in our presence.

1. This could be the prayers of the saints. (Revelation 8:4)
2. We have the opportunity to delight the heart of God.
3. We delight the heart of God by approaching Him.

G. The Holy of Holies.

1. A veil separated this from the Holy Place.
 - a. The Jews only entered once a year.
 - b. The curtain was torn by God symbolizing that access was opened to God to every believer. (Matthew 27:50-51, Hebrews 9:8)
2. We are to give glory to God.. (Psalm 29:2)
 - a. One can give glory to God by letting Him know about His Person and work.
 - b. Worship is telling God our estimate of His worth. (Psalm 104:1, Revelation 4:11, Psalm 145)

3. We are to express love to God. (Psalm 18:1)
 - a. The gifts of God are bountiful for which we can express love for Him. (John 12-21)
4. We are to praise and thank Him. (Psalm 104)
 - a. This is different than thanksgiving.
 - b. Praise is talking to God about what he has already done over prayer, which talks to Him about what He has not done.
5. We are to thank Him for His presence.
 - a. One could move into the presence of God right in the middle of a sentence.
 - b. The most important part of this fellowship is talking about what is real to the person and what is real to God.
6. We are to make our requests known to God. (Philippians 4:6-7)
 - a. God cares about our needs.
7. We are to remember the most important part: fellowship.
 - b. His primary focus is on our fellowship that we take away like a fragrant flower into our daily life.

IV. Conclusion.

Application questions

1. List the major steps the speaker suggests for personal worship in your own words.

2. Which of these steps do you find to be most important? Explain.

3. How has this message changed your view on personal prayer? What aspects will you incorporate into your worship experience?
