

Prayer

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I. Introduction.

A. Prayer is meaningful.

B. There is a formality to time with God. It is not necessary, but it can make it more meaningful.

II. The tabernacle - approach to God.

A. The tabernacle made with hands was a copy, pattern or type to the true approach to God. (Hebrews 9:24)

B. The items of the tabernacle. (Exodus 25:22)

1. The outer court.

a. The brazen altar.

b. The laver of cleansing.

2. The Holy Place.

a. The candlestick

b. The table of showbread.

c. The altar of incense.

3. The Holy of Holies.

a. The ark of the covenant.

C. 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.

D. There was a very formal pattern that had to be followed in the temple.

III. Steps through the tabernacle.

A. Thanksgiving.

1. Christ died outside the gate. (Hebrews 13:12)

2. We are to thank Him for this.

B. The brazen altar. (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 signifies 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.

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.

F. The golden altar of incense. (Psalm 133:1)

1. Our presence is a good fragrance to God.
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. God's Person and His works are central. (Psalm 96:8-9, Psalm 145:5)
2. We are to give God glory through worship and adoration. (Psalm 104:1, Revelation 4:11)
 - a. Giving glory is displaying excellence.
 - b. It is concerned with God's Person and works.
3. We are to be thankful to God. (Psalm 100:4)
 - a. . The example of "Praying Hyde," who was adamant about praying for people to come to Christ. When he failed to worship God, his prayers were not answered.
 - b. God is more interested in you talking to him about what He has done than something He has not done.
4. We are to love God.

a. The gifts of God are bountiful for which we can express love for Him. (John 12-21)

5. We are to recognize God's presence.

a. One could move into the presence of God right in the middle of a sentence.

b. When we are there time goes by quickly.

c. We should then occupy ourselves with His Person and Works.

6. We are to make our requests known to God.

a. Apart from some spiritual connection with God we can do nothing. (John 15:5)

b. A spiritual work only occurs when we ask God to partake with us.

c. We need to ask if we want what God has for us. Prayer is a powerful force that God has bound Himself to. (James 4:2)

d. In petition we lay hold of God's willingness.

IV. Conclusion: in the degree we concentrate on worship, prayer, and petition our time with the Lord can be more meaningful.

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 worship? What aspects will you incorporate into your worship experience?
