

7th of January 2018

Essential ingredients for Christian growth Pt 2 Prayer

This is the second study on our topic – the essential ingredients for Christian growth. In our first teaching we established the need to desire, receive and meditate on the word of God. In this study we will cover the need to pray with our mouth, in our thoughts, with cries and singing.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. Speak to God in prayer with our mouth.

“Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth” (Ps.54: 2).

See also Ps.17: 1.

“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God” (Phil.4: 6). “Ye also helping together by prayer for us” (2Cor.1: 11).

2. Speak to God in prayer with the thoughts of our heart.

“And Jesus, perceiving the thought of their heart, took a child, and set him by him” (Lk.9: 47).

If the Lord Jesus knows our thoughts then we can pray to Him with the thoughts of our heart.

3. Speak to God with weeping.

“the Lord hath heard the voice of my weeping” (Ps.6: 8). See also Ps.17: 1 & 39.12.

4. Speak to the Lord in singing.

“Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord” (Eph.5: 19). See also – Col.3: 16.

Applying the teaching to our life today.

The prophets of Baal “called on the name of Baal from morning unto noon...But there was no voice, not any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made” (1Kgs.18: 26). Yet, when Elijah called on the Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and of Israel “the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust” (1Kgs. 18.38).

Question to think about.

The Israelites that witnessed the prophets of Baal beseech their god and Elijah call on the Lord would have grown in their faith that day – why?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

Because when a person prays, cries or weeps before God Almighty who hears His children, and they see His response, they grow in their belief of Him, they grow in faith (2Thes.1: 3).

If you pray, weep and sing unto the Lord God Almighty and He never responds then either you are none of his (as “He that is of God heareth God’s words” – Jn.8: 47), or something is hindering your prayers (1Pet.3: 7).

If you spend very little time praying to God – speaking with the mouth, from the heart, with tears, in songs then you will struggle to walk with God, or war against the enemy of God, because from communication with our Heavenly Father comes relationship, growth, our armour and weapons. If you struggle to put aside time to pray then think of my grandson who at the age of 6 knelt down on the steps outside our house and asked God to stop the rain, and soon after the rain stopped falling from heaven. Both he and I have never forgotten the Lord’s grace in His response to his prayer. So be encouraged to pray with your mouth, with the thoughts of your heart, weeping and singing to the Lord to the point where one day you find yourself praying “without ceasing”, for prayer is an essential ingredient for Christian growth. Amen!