



GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#33)

Prayer and our values; difficulties we may have when trying to let Scripture influence our praying

A FEW QUESTIONS & COMMENTS



ABOUT THE BIBLE AND PRAYER.

WE MAY ASK → *In the early church, did they **ALWAYS** include the Bible in their praying?*

↓

*Not **ALWAYS**, but even then ...*

➔ *Since the Bible was an integral part of their daily life, it would have naturally influenced the way they prayed.*

- ❖ Sometimes they didn't have time to include Scripture!
 - Example: Stephen, when he was being killed.
- ❖ "Newborn" Christians might not know how to apply the Bible to life and prayer.
 - The genuine followers of Jesus would want to learn.

HOW ABOUT YOU? → *Does including the Bible in your praying seem **NATURAL**?*

↓

If not ...

*It might take **CONSCIENCE EFFORT** to do what came **NATURAL** for them.... before it became natural for us.*

•••••

THERE MAY BE GOOD REASONS FOR THIS DIFFICULTY.

- ❖ (EXAMPLE) We could be "newborn" Christians, still learning how to apply the Bible to life and prayer.

THERE MAY BE NOT-SO-GOOD REASONS.

(EXAMPLES)

- ❖ We could have developed bad praying habits, because of bad examples around us.
- ❖ We could have spent much of our "saved" life being a fake.
- ❖ We could have developed sinful, lazy habits that prevent us from learning... and we need to repent of it.

[LIKE THESE PEOPLE] We have a lot to explain about this. But since you have become too lazy to pay attention, explaining it to you is hard.

Hebrews 5:11 (GW)

THE WAY YOU PRAY

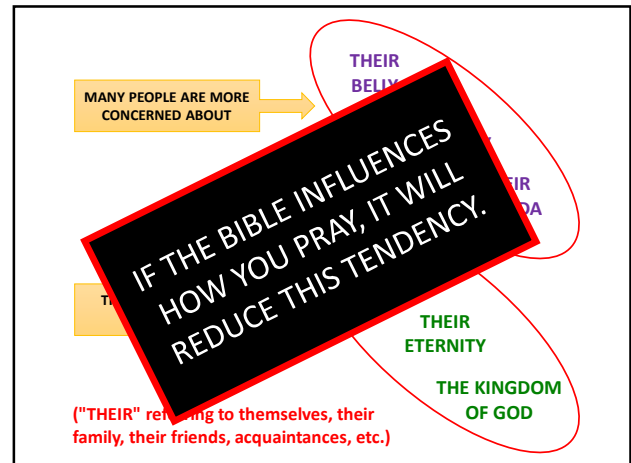
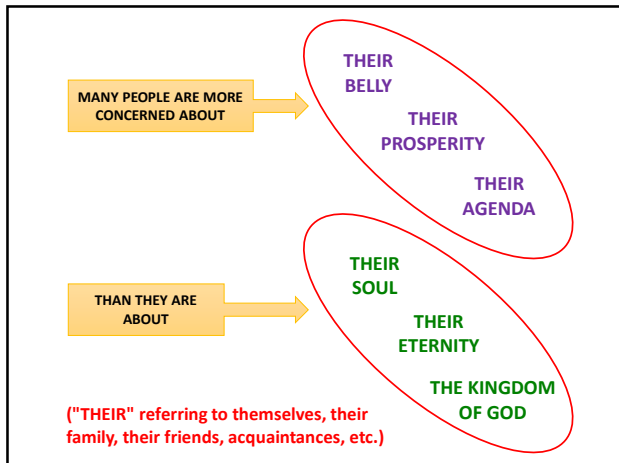
→ WILL REFLECT ←

YOUR VALUES.

➤ When you listen to some people pray, you can tell that...

THEY ARE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT → GRANDMA'S BIG TOE

→ THAN THEY ARE ABOUT → GRANDMA'S SALVATION



TRIVIA QUESTION!

Do you know the length of the longest prayer meeting on record?

THE ANSWER SHOWS US THE VALUE OF:

- **Long prayer meetings...** They can have value, as long as the praying is meaningful.
- **Group participation in prayer meetings...** This specific prayer meeting could not have occurred if many people had not become involved.

ANSWER!

Over 100 years non-stop!
(Beginning August 27, 1727) *

➤ **Imagine this...**

1. When some stopped praying... others started... and this occurred round-the-clock, non-stop! (It began with 48 volunteers.)
2. Many of those praying at the end of that 100-year period never met those who were praying at the beginning of that time period! But they were ALL part of it!

* (The record of when it ended is lost. Some suggest it lasted 110 years or longer.)

[More about it.]

It started with repentance.

➤ **How it started ...**

1. Before this occurred, the group had been characterized by dissension and bickering.
2. A small number had started praying for repentance and revival.
3. When revival came (shown genuine by the repentance that accompanied it), concern for the unsaved grew, until they began praying non-stop for the unsaved worldwide.

[More about it.]

It continued with perseverance.

➤ **What it accomplished**

1. The initial results were mostly failures. Most of the early missionary volunteers died or had minimal success.
2. They did not give up praying when all their effort seemed to accomplish almost nothing.
3. Ultimately, this praying proved to be the beginning of world missions (for the unsaved), and great revivals (among other Christians).

[More about it.]

Did they spend all their time praying Scripture?

➤ They had plenty of time to pray about anything that came to mind!

But whether or not they prayed actual Scripture passages, their prayer was influenced by the values of the Bible.

This is a good example for us to follow!

ONE FINAL QUESTION → What about praying pre-written prayers (our own, or from a prayer book, etc.)?

They have value **ONLY** to the extent that:

- They reflect the desires and values of our own hearts.
- AND** ➤ They reflect the values of Scripture!

- ❖ Half the Psalms are written prayers... try using them!
 - Since they ultimately came from God, they obviously express the values of Scripture!
- ❖ One thing we need to avoid (relevant for any type of praying) is this:

PRAYING WITHOUT THINKING!

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN,
HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME...
OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN,
HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME...
OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN,
HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME...
OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN,
HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME...

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I'M SAYING!!!

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

IN SCRIPTURE:
*WE CAN LEARN SO MUCH ABOUT PRAYER AND PRAYING!
IF WE ARE **GOD'S PEOPLE**... LET'S LEARN THESE THINGS!*

AND THEN ...
Let's pray → and see what God does!

And keep on praying, even if we see no immediate results!

Credits

SCRIPTURE

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