

Sermon ~ Sunday, January 1, 2023, by Pastor Dwight Benoit

Text: Matthew 6: 9-15

Title: "CHRISTian Prayer!" (2)

CHURCH, it's praying time!!! Not that we are not praying every day, but it's praying time!!!

In any *battle*, secure and reliable communication lines are critical!

Pray, "Our FATHER, please help us not to lose our communication with YOU, while in this *Battle*! In JESUS NAME! Amen!"

1. PRAYER is *Worship* of **GOD, our FATHER!**

Worship, *proskuneo* (pro-koo-neh'-o) mean "to bend over" or "to bow down."

Properly, to kiss the ground when prostrating before a Superior.

To Worship really is "to fall down/prostrate oneself to *adore* [worship] on one's knees."

(Example: kneeling, head bowed, and hands clutched. Biblically worship and praying is portrayed by kneeling—King Solomon, 2 Chronicles 6: 13, when **GOD'S Presence** filled the Temple; Head bowed—Moses, Exodus 34: 8, at Mt. Sinai, or, Eyes and Hands lifted toward Heaven, Psalms 121: 1, 2)

In the 1200's to the Middle Ages, PRAYER Worship was displayed by an "Homage Ceremony": where the King would set on his Throne and his *vassals* (stewards), *servants* or *subjects*, would come before him and, 1. Kneel. 2. Reach out their clutched hands before The King. 3. The King would place His hands over their hands. 4. With bowed head, the *vassal* (steward), *servant* or *subject* would say to the King, 'I'm your man'—pleading loyalty to the King. 'I belong to you,' 'I will obey and follow your commands.' 'All my life belongs to you!'

Let me remind us that "There are *two KINGdoms* at War...

1. *The Kingdom of Lies!* (Death, disobedience, darkness, *evil—Devil*)

2. **The KINGdom of TRUTH!** (Life, obedience, light, *Good—GOD!*)

Many think (I did) that there are '*two people*' in a relationship, but there are "*three*"!

GOD—Good, 1 (in) you 2, and *evil—Devil* 3 (outside of you)!

Not everything that happens in this Life is from **GOD!**

CHRISTian PRAYER is Worship— "Hallowed be **THY NAME. YOUR KINGdom** Come.

YOUR Will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven" – Worship!

2. Sometimes PRAYER moves **GOD'S Hand**. Most of the time PRAYER moves *our Hearts*.

"Hallowed be **THY NAME**." Hallow, holy, consecrated, sacred--sanctified, revered.

[**GOD NAME**: speaks of **HIS** "identity," **HIS** character, **HIS** actions...

EL-SHADDAI—ALL Sufficient ONE, LORD GOD Almighty;

JEHOVAH RAPHA—The LORD WHO Heals; JEHOVAH JIREH—The LORD Will Provide.]

When **JESUS** petitions **GOD** to 'hallow' **HIS NAME**, **HE** is asking that **GOD** act in such a way that **HE** visibly demonstrates **HIS holiness** and **HIS Glory**. HOW?

By creating in "me," "us," **Holy Hearts!**

[WE don't want to be called out of our Names. We don't like when our Names are missed spelled! When we do and give our best, we don't like to be "half, slightly, somewhat, worshiped! BUT True Worshippers Hallow, know **GOD** is holy, is to be honored, consecrated, sacred--sanctified, revered. John 4: 24,

"GOD is a SPIRIT: and they that worship HIM must worship HIM in spirit and in truth."

3. **PRAYER** sometimes changes our *Circumstances* so that we can get around *Hardships*, **BUT most of the time, PRAYER changes "us" so that we can get through our Hardships.**

"YOUR KINGdom come." Q. Are you a subject or hard-head child--resistant?

"YOUR Will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven." Q. Are you a servant or little master?

Q. Do I LOVE **The KING** of **The KINGdom**? Or is it **KINGdom** stuff, I Love?

Q. In **PRAYER** am I telling **GOD** my Will or am I *seeking GOD'S Will*—employed *servant*?

--As Suppliants, we humbly, bow and stretch out our hands asking "Give us this day..."

--As Confessors (admitters of our *sin*) we say, "Forgive us..." You can't forgive if you've not been forgiven by **GOD**! Forgive what, *sin*! Luke 17: 3,

"If thy brother trespass [encroach your territory] against thee, rebuke [reprimand] him; and if he repent, forgive him."

--As Dependents, we **pray**, "Deliver us..." 1 Corinthians 10: 13,

"There is no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but **GOD** is faithful, **WHO** will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

--For Safety, we **PRAY**, "Lead us not into temptation..." that is, "Walk with me **LORD**...hold my hand **LORD**...! So, I can sang at the close of the day, Victory is Mine...I told Satan, get thee behind, Victory today is Mine!"

-- "For **THINE is The KINGdom—YOU'RE The SOVEREIGN GOD**,

and **The POWER—ALL Powerful**,

and **The Glory—YOUR Magnificence [Wonder, Amazing GRACE]**

"Is," exist, live, have life... "for ever" with out ever ending, eternal, forever and ever!!!

HALLELUJAH!!! ALLELUJAH!!! Amen. Amen. Amen.

4. **CHRISTian PRAYER reflect Good Doctrine. If not, it's not a Good PRAYER!**