

Mother's Prayer

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Matthew 6:9-13

**“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
¹⁰ your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
¹¹ Give us today our daily bread.
¹² And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
¹³ And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one. (Matthew 6:9-13 NIV)**

-Today is Mother's Day. I always say that we worship God and honor mothers.

-It is emotional day for me, because I remember **my mother** who is not with us anymore.

-It is emotional day for many of you for different reasons:

either you miss your mom,

or you wanted to be a mom and it did not happen;

or you have had unpleasant experiences with your parent, and this day brings sad memories.

Whatever is happening in your life, (happy or sad) I want to assure you, you are in the right place.

-I want to welcome everyone. Even if you are not a biological mother, you are a

“mother” figure for so many people. You are an aunt, you are a teacher, you are a mentor, each of you have supported someone in your lives.

-Today I have Joan Minassian with me. She has been PACC Christian Education Director for eight years in 1980s; She will share how prayer shaped her life and priorities.

-Our topic is about prayer.

May is month of National Prayer.

I chose this topic because I am here standing in front of you because of the influence of **my mother's prayer**.

-My mother was a **simple lady**. She was very successful in the school, yet she had drop out of the school when she was in 6th grade, because she lost her father. Six siblings, all were trying to find jobs. Her life was tough, yet she did not give up from self-education. But more importantly, she became a Christian after marriage, and her prayer life was what kept her going.

-She had a prayer corner, and three times day she had a prayer time. We kids knew mom was praying, and we tried not to bother her.

What is prayer?

I am using ideas from Paul Tripp's book "Journey to the Cross":

"Prayer is abandoning my righteousness, admitting my need for forgiveness, and resting in the grace of the cross of Jesus Christ."¹

Prayer is a gift, the gift of communication. God loves to be in a relationship with us.

-Last week when I was preaching about Paul who was led by the Spirit to go to Jerusalem, I am sure prayer was his communication with the Lord.

-Prayer is not an **automatic ritual**. (I don't want to pray like that)

One needs to devote oneself for prayer:

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. (Col 4:2 NIV)

During the passion month, my sermon topic was **Watch and Pray**. It is what Jesus is asking us, to be deliberately watchful, cautious, and have a time reserved for prayer with a thankful heart.

Once a pastor said, "**prayer is a fancy word for talking with God**". Do you see it is talking not *to* God, but *with* God. God loves relationship.

In prayer we need heart of adoration, a heart of confession, a heart of submission, a heart of supplication.

These titles one can find in Lord's Prayer.

1. Adoration:

How do you adore God?

Meditate on reasons for the Lord is worthy to worship. Why should you worship Him?

He is your creator...
He is King, ruler
He loves me...
His grace is all over me.
He is sovereign.
He is patient with me.....long suffering....
He is merciful towards me
He is wise.
He is Holy.

Paul Tripp says: **“Adoration stimulates the kind of worship that is not just the sacrifice of words, but the offer of your life to his glorious Lord.”²**

2. Confession:

After adoration, confession is part of the prayer Jesus taught us.
Confession is good.

“Prayer is abandoning my righteousness, admitting my need for forgiveness...”

All of us need **self-evaluation**, bringing our hearts to Jesus.

Isaiah in his vision, he said:

“Woe to me, I am lost, I am man of unclean lips...”(Isaiah 6:5)

“It takes a vision of God to have a true and reliable vision of ourselves.”³

Often, we don’t see our sin. Often, we are blinded. (I was blind but now I see)

-Asking forgiveness guides you to forgive others.

Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us...

A true confession works when you are desperately asking God for the restoration of your heart.

-Please don’t find excuses, confession is being broken and asking forgiveness and asking for healing....

Which takes me to the next one.

Submission

In Ephesians we discussed about submission to God and submission to each other. Last week we saw Paul’s life expressed submission to God.

He did not need ceremonial cleansing; He knew that only through Jesus one can be cleansed. Yet he gave up from his rights and submitted himself to God. I expressed that He learned this from Jesus.

“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” (Luke 22:42 NIV)

In Prayer, you submit your desires of your heart to desires of God.

John Piper’s ministry is called: Desiring God. (I like that name)

I need His GRACE to submit.

“Prayer is abandoning my righteousness, admitting my need for forgiveness, and resting in the grace of the cross of Jesus Christ.”

That is so true.

Supplication

-After Adoration, Confession, and submission, I can bring my needs to Jesus.

-God is delighted to meet our needs according to His wisdom and righteousness.

-When we confess and submit, our heart is **in right attitude to ask**.

-When we submit ourselves to the plans and purposes that are bigger than us, we don’t pray just for ourselves but also for others.”⁴

Give us OUR daily bread....

My needs will be shaped when my heart adored God, confessed to God, and submitted to God.

A Ferrari and private plane is no more my need....

I would like to ask Joan express how PRAYER has changed her life.

In her message you will see those elements of prayer shaped her life.

1. Paul Tripp, *Journey to the Cross*, p 33

2. Paul Tripp, *Journey to the Cross*, p 35

3. Paul Tripp, *Journey to the Cross*, p 35

4. Paul Tripp, *Journey to the Cross*, p 36