

Prayer 101

Finding the Heart's True Home

Petitionary Prayer

- Do you know why the mighty God of the Universe chooses to answer prayer? It is because his children ask. God delights in our asking. He is pleased at our asking. His heart is warmed by our asking. (179)
- Why ask for what God knows we need? It deepens the relationship. (180-181)
- My issues are small in comparison - they are important to God because they are important to us. (181)

- Difficulty of unanswered prayer:
- No answer fully satisfying
- shortsighted prayer, detrimental to others, self-contradictory, not prepared yet
- answered but lack sight - need for greater discernment
- Sin; separate ourselves from heart of God

- Lord's Prayer (Paternoster):
- Give: prayer for daily bread (trivialities of life)
- Forgive: the offence no longer separates us
- Deliver: empty me of the need for testing; Satan

Intercessory Prayer

- In the ongoing work of the kingdom of God, nothing is more important than Intercessory Prayer. People today desperately need the help that we can give them. Marriages are being shattered. Children are being destroyed. Individuals are living lives of quiet desperation, without purpose or future. And we can make a difference...if we will learn to pray on their behalf. (191)

- What I am trying to say is that our ministry of intercession is made possible only because of Christ's continuing ministry of intercession. (193)
- To pray in the name of Jesus means to pray in full assurance of the great work Christ accomplished—in his life, by his death, through his resurrection, and by means of his continuing reign at the right hand of God the Father. (194)

- To pray in the name of Jesus means that we are praying in accord with the way and nature of Christ. It means that we are making the kinds of intercessions he would make if he were among us in the flesh. (194-195)
- When we begin praying for others, we soon discover that it is easy to become discouraged at the results, which seem frustratingly slow and uneven. This is because we are entering the strange mix of divine influence and human autonomy. God never compels, and so the divine influence always allows a way of escape. No one is ever forced into a robot style of obedience. (196)

- It is God's desire to bring individuals and families into saving faith. It is God's desire to bring people off of addictions to drugs, sex, money, status. It is God's desire to deliver people from racism, sexism, nationalism, consumerism. It is God's desire to harvest cities, bringing whole communities into Gospel fidelity. Organized, corporate, intercessory prayer is a crucial means for the fulfillment of these yearnings in the heart of God. (199)
- One caution: none of us is to shoulder the burden of prayer for everyone and everything. (200)