

The Ministry of Prayer IX

This then is how you should pray: "Our father in heaven, hallowed be your name..."

We have been looking at what I call the "Ministry" of prayer in Matthew chapter six. I call it ministry because it is a vital part of our relationship with the Lord. To minister to Him and before Him is a wonderful privilege, honor and desire of all who have been born of the Spirit. There are ministering spirits in heaven, right now, worshipping the Lamb before His Throne. Jesus wants us to do on earth what is being done in heaven. Redeemed souls want to minister to the Lord. It is the call of the heart of those who have been set free to love on God by ministering to Him and before Him by blessing His name at all times. His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

We saw last week that the beginning of prayer is worship. In the verse above, Jesus calls us to bless the name of our Father in heaven. More and more people are realizing that worship is prayer. We sing a lot of songs during our worship time on Saturday evenings. I hope you make it a habit at home or really wherever you are, to worship the Father. Every time you bless the name of the Father or bless Him because of who He is or because of what He has done, you set a spiritual atmosphere about your life. It's hard to bless God and curse mankind. James says that you cannot get salt water and fresh water out of the same spring. When you are blessing the Father of creation, you are setting up a blessed atmosphere around your life. That is what prayer does. Prayer of this kind makes it difficult for the enemy of your soul to tempt you. Prayer that is focused on lifting up the name of the Lord our God is a stronghold buster. I like to worship in my prayer time. I also like to worship the Father while I drive or while I'm at work or at home. I was walking around one of the banks I work at singing softly to the Lord and I could feel this energy from above all around me. It reminded me of being under and in the Shadow of the Almighty. I love that image and reality.

Worshipping the name of the Father breaks into the footholds of the kingdom of darkness. Remember when Paul and Silas were worshipping in their prison cell? It was midnight and they were praying and singing hymns to God. The best time to worship is when there is trouble in your life. Then you have the enemy right where you want him and you can crush his schemes through worship. As Paul and Silas worshipped, there was a violent earthquake that shook the foundations of the prison. Don't underestimate the power behind worship. Want to see some strong foundations shaken loose? Worship God. After the foundations were shaken ALL the prison doors flew open. The doors didn't just come unlatched, they flew open. Bam! The doors that once held Paul and Silas hostage were powerfully forced wide open and it was the same in every cell. Want to get free of a shut door that is prohibiting you from advancing? Want to see others get free? Worship the Father. Not only that, EVERYONE'S chains fell off. The whole prison was free of the restricting chains that bound them. Want to see bondage broken? Me too. Let's worship the Father. "Our Father in heaven, holy is Your name!!!"