

Devotion to Prayer
Hope Chapel Honolulu
1Timothy 2:1-6

¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³ This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. (1Timothy 2:1-6, ESV)

Introduction

While many religions and belief systems include practices like prayer, only the Christian faith maintains that believers should pray to a God who answers prayer because He is powerful, loving and faithful. In the Judeo-Christian tradition, whereas Old Testament prayer was limited in both direction and participation, New Testament prayer encourages a bold child-like approach to God the Father's "throne of grace" (i.e. 2Chr7:14, He4:16). While models of prayer are too numerous to all be mentioned today, we will touch upon personal, intercessory and conversational prayer today.

1. Personal prayer as found in the teaching of Christ. (Matthew 6:5-15, Luke 11:1-4)

- a) The method and model of prayer Christ taught the disciples as recorded in the Gospels.
- b) The Lord's (Disciples') Prayer such as from the Anglican Book of Common Prayer (1662).

2. Intercessory or priestly prayer for others. (1 Timothy 2:1-6)

- a) "Supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings" and the ACTS model of prayer.
- b) The central role of Jesus Christ in our redemption, reconciliation and restoration.

3. Conversational prayer or "prayer without ceasing." (1Thessalonians 5:17)

- a) "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances."
- b) Seeing "the breaking of bread and prayer" as the core of Christian belief and practice.

Conclusion

While prayer may not be peculiar to the Christian faith, the belief that those who believe in Jesus Christ are included in a "kingdom of priests" is. Christian faith is based upon the priesthood—representation of and vital connection with God the Father—of God the Son, Jesus Christ. The devotional practice of prayer is how followers of Christ imitate, resemble and represent Christ to the world. Together with the breaking of bread ("communion"), prayer is how a personal faith and intimate relationship with God impacts the world for good by the power, love and faithfulness of God.

For our prayerful study, discovery and application:

- 1) Read Exodus 19:6, Revelation 1:6 and 5:10. Why is being a kingdom of priests significant to prayer?
- 2) Read 1Thessalonians 5:16-18 again. How is prayerful connection with God part of His will for us?
- 3) Read 1Timothy 2:1-6. Talk about the kinds of prayer we are encouraged to pray, who should we pray for and then pray!

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