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Pastor's Corner

I Give Myself Away

Matthew 6:9

What is the essence of prayer? The essence of prayer is surrender. I continue to encourage the attitude of surrender not only in our lives, but in our prayer lives as well. With the prayer, Jesus taught the disciples. Jesus began with these words**, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name, your kingdom, come your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Matt. 6:9.** Notice that the focus of the prayer is upon God the Father and the Holiness and Omnipotence of God. Because the meaning of the word "hallowed" is not fully understood, its meaning is lost and the impact it should have on us is lost as well.

The word "hallowed" means to hold in "AWE, in HOLINESS," in spiritual and "DIVINE" transcendence. Prayer is equated with a person approaching the throne of the King or Emperor. We come bowed down, surrendered, relinquishing any and all power to that King. It is the King who has power over life and death. We are in the Kings hands. We are to conform to the pleasure and whim of the king. It is by the Kings grace, the Kings pleasure that any request, any petition is granted.

So Jesus says pray in this manner in **Matt 6:9, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."** The words **"Our Father**," is giving recognition to the one being addressed and the one being address is not your friend, He is your Lord, your King, the Omnipotent One. There is nothing ordinary or casual about God. God is not to be taken for granted. There is nothing regular about God even though you approach Him every single day. Jesus says pray this, "**your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."** Jesus is telling His disciples to pray for God's will to be done. Pray for God's will to be done on earth, in your life, in the lives of your children and friends as it is in heaven.

Prayer is about getting yourself in the proper frame of mind to approach the throne of God. It is important that we understand that Jesus, in this prayer, is making a distinction between Him and God the Father. Jesus is here demonstrating that even He approaches the throne with the attitude of approaching the Holy, the Untouchable God in His human form. Read the prayer that Jesus lifts up in John 17. He approaches as "THE HOLY ONE." It is because of the love and grace that God extends to us that we are able to go to God and make our petitions known. However, it is the attitude that we approach God in those matters. **Philippians 2:5** tells us we should have the same attitude as Jesus when approaching God the Father. Jesus honored and loved "God the Father" and would never approach God in any way other than with a surrendered heart.

In the song, "I give myself away," the songwriter says, **"Here I am, Here I stand, Lord, my life is in your hands Lord, I'm longing to see, Your desires**

revealed in me, I give myself away." The seeker of answered prayer approaches the throne of God with the same attitude that Jesus is teaching His disciples. They are saying, 'Lord my life is in your hands. I'm longing to see your desires revealed in me. I'm not seeking my way. I'm not seeking my agenda. I am seeking what You desire of me.' Only the surrendered heart can do this. Only the person who has surrendered his life to the will of God can do this.

The next verses are powerful and demand more of us as children of God. "I give myself away, so You can use me, **Take my heart, take my life, as a living sacrifice. All my dreams, all my plans Lord, I place them in Your Hands."** The song is saying take my innermost thoughts, take that which is dearest to my heart. Because I'm surrendered, I'm giving myself away. Because I'm surrendered, I'm not leaving any part of me to be claimed by anything that is not in Your will. "Take my life as a living sacrifice." I want the world to see that I serve You. That I am in You and Your words are in me. The songwriter says, **"All my dreams, all my plans Lord, I place them in Your hands."** The greatest difficulty in this world is to give it all to the Father. Know that we are not alone in this. Know that Jesus walked where we walk now. Know that in the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus felt what we feel. He wanted the cup to pass from Him as well. It was in the surrendered state that Jesus was able to say, **"Not my will, but Thine be done."**

The fundamental understanding of the Christian walk is grasped in full when we come to the realization that our life is not our own. It belongs to God, to Him alone. It is then that we can give ourselves away. It is only in the surrendered state that we come to understand that we are powerless to accomplish the things of God in our lives, without the power of God being in our lives. It is when we are surrendered that

we are the most prayerful and yielded. It is then that the Spirit speaks to our spirit in the will and love of God.

God Bless and remain safe,

Pastor Gool