

Gratitude and our Petitions to God Chapters 9 and 10

Our communion with God should be ongoing – both quiet , planned prayer time and brief “arrow” prayers. Everything in our lives is to be subjected to His inspection and our goal should always be to honor and praise Him.

Philippians 4:6 says: “ *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*”

So, in addition to being a great privilege, prayer is commanded of us by God – we are **required** to present our requests to Him.

What reasons do you think there could be for God’s requiring us to present our requests to Him?

**WHAT** do we pray for? We pray for both our needs and our desires. So let’s examine both.

**Needs** – Look at pages 90 – 91 in our text – beginning with “How easily” through “proclamation of Christ.”

What do you think of this?

Let’s look at some specific scriptures and examine the actual needs they identify (both for ourselves and for others):

Luke 10:38 – 42

2 Timothy 3:15 – 17 –

John 15:26 – 27 –

Philippians 4:13 – 15 –

Luke 18:13 –

**Requests** – These would be things for ourselves and others that would seem to fit with scripture, and not to be sinful, where we always ask that God’s will be done. What would some of these types of things be?

**HOW** do we pray? Steve Brown identifies both **discursive** and **meditative** prayer. Discursive is just our prayers in our own words – what we usually use to pray for our requests. Meditative prayer is praying directly from scripture as we have been practicing in this class. This can also be just focusing on a brief passage and thinking about it and meditating on its meaning.

Another area of prayer to consider is what I would call just Listening. This involves the prayer or worship of our lives. God always answers the prayers of believers, for our good and His glory. The answers can be yes, no, or something we had not expected or thought about.

What are the ways in which God communicates the answers to our prayers?

1. Through scripture
2. Related to the above, knowledge of His law
3. Godly counsel
4. Changed heart toward our circumstances or toward others
5. Changing circumstances

How does each of these look in our lives? How would you describe or define each one?

In all these things, as we saw in Philippians 4:6 we are to have a life of thanksgiving and gratitude.

Look at pages 102 – 103 in our text, from “Satan knows” through “grateful hearts.”

What do you think about this? What do you think she means when she says that our service is “fueled by the fires of thanksgiving?”

How would you sum up or define in your own experience, the relationship between thanksgiving (gratitude) and peace?

Bryan Chapell says “The heart of faith believes what the eye cannot observe of God’s hand. This is why we continue to pray boldly for His sovereign control of all things to enable us to glorify Christ in all our lives.”

In our prayer time today, let’s work from Psalm 19 and Galatians 6:7 – 10:

*NIV Psalm 19:1 For the director of music. A psalm of David. The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.*

*2 Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.*

*3 There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard.*

*4 Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun,*

*5 which is like a bridegroom coming forth from his pavilion, like a champion rejoicing to run his course.*

*6 It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is hidden from its heat.*

*7 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.*

*8 The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.*

*9 The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous.*

*10 They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb.*

*11 By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.*

*12 Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults.*

*13 Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then will I be blameless, innocent of great transgression.*

*14 May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.*

*Galatians 6:7 – 10*

*7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.*

*8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.*

*9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*

*10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*