

PRAYING IN FIVE DIMENSIONS

40 Day of Prayer – Week 4

(Note – may only be reproduced for use as a participant in MCF's 40 Day of Prayer campaign)

Intro: 5th Dimension

(title) but first, review a couple of important truths:

1. GOD IS A MULTIDIMENSIONAL GOD

o WE SEE IT IN GOD'S CREATION

ROM.1:20 "Since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen (in) what has been made, so that men are without excuse." (NIV)

JOB 11:7-9 "Can you fathom the limits and bounds of the greatness and power of God? The sky is no limit for God, but it lies beyond your reach! God knows the world of the dead, but you do not know it. God's greatness is broader than the earth, and wider than the sea." (TEV)

o WE SEE IT IN JESUS' INCARNATION

JN.1:14 "The Word became a human being and lived among us! We saw his glory...and he was full of grace and truth!" (NCV)

HEB.13:8 "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."
Do you know anyone like this?
Are you the same...?
Jesus is bound by neither space nor time!

REV.1:4 "Grace & peace to you from Him who is, and who was, and who is to come!" That about includes everything! *Multidimensional!*

o WE SEE IT IN HOW THE HOLY SPIRIT MOVES.

JN.3:8 "The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you don't know where the wind comes from or where it's going. That's the way it is with everyone born of the Holy Spirit." (GW)

JOB 9:10-11 "He does wonders that cannot be understood; he does so many miracles they cannot be counted. When he passes me, I can't see him; and when he goes by me, I don't recognize him!"

2. BECAUSE GOD IS MULTIDIMENSIONAL I'M NEVER ALONE

PS. 139:7-12 "Where could I go to escape from you? Where could I ever get away from your presence? If I went up to heaven, you'd be there; if I lay down in the world of the dead, you'd be there. If I flew away beyond the east or lived in the farthest place in the west, you'd be there to lead me. You'd be there to help me. I could ask the darkness to hide me -but even darkness is not dark for you, and the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are the same to you." (TEV)

Tip: never try to play hide and seek with God!

Since God is multidimensional & everywhere
you can talk to him about every dimension of your life!

LET'S GET PRACTICAL

5 DIMENSIONS OF YOUR LIFE YOU CAN PRAY ABOUT

Explain, then practice them in communion. **WHEN I PRAY...**

1ST I LOOK BACKWARD TO THE CROSS!

This is a good place to start because *it fills me with gratitude.*

THE CROSS REMINDS ME OF 3 THINGS

- o How deeply God loves me
- o How costly evil & sin is
- o How completely I'm forgiven

1 PET. 1:18-19 "God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life... He paid for you with the precious lifeblood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God." (NLT)

Music helps me feel the importance of the cross
Create a **playlist**, not just a prayer list

THINK: **Right now** all of your sins are in the past -**but so is the Cross!**
And Jesus has **ALREADY** paid for tomorrow's sins too!

WRITE PG 94-96

2ND I LOOK UPWARD TO MY FATHER'S LOVING FACE!

I focus on the fact that God wants me to see him **as Father**

Jesus: When you pray – Start with "OUR FATHER"

If you make this one change - it will change how you pray!

What you call someone sets the tone!
You're not trying to convince a loan officer!
giving a deposition to an attorney
taking a lie detector test with an FBI agent
It's your FATHER who loves you!

ROM.8:15-17 "You should not act like cowering, fearful slaves, since God's Spirit has adopted you as children into God's Family! Instead, **BY HIS SPIRIT WE SIMPLY CRY OUT ABBA! FATHER!** and God's Spirit affirms that we really are his children! And since we are now God's children, we're also heirs with Christ, and will share in both his suffering and his glory!" packed w life-changing truth
MEMORIZE THIS!

What you think God is like determines how you pray
If you think God is an *uninterested Creator*
unpleasable Deity ... untouchable Stranger

EASY to tell what people think of God; Just listen to them pray!
For many God is the Schoolteacher "Please Sir, may I go..."

GOD WANTS MY PRAYERS TO BE...

1. **PERSONAL!** **Abba! Daddy!** baby term! the most intimate

childlike... unpretentious... honest unassuming
unworried about making a good impress

Again: *When you settle this fact* it will change how you pray!

All misunderstanding of prayer is a misunderstanding of God!

Homework: **Start every prayer this week with "Daddy"**
"I don't feel comfortable...!" That's your problem!

2. **PASSIONATE!** **Cry Out!**

Children cry out & they don't care where or who's listening!
Put some feeling in your prayers! *"I've got to have this!"*

This is not a meeting with your tax preparer!

3. **A PARTNERSHIP!** **"By His Spirit"**

Did you know that when you pray, the Holy Spirit prays *with you?*

ROM 8:26 screen "Also, the Holy Spirit helps us with our weakness. **We often do not know how to pray as we should. BUT the Spirit himself speaks to God for us, even begs God on our behalf with deep groanings and feelings that words cannot express!**

Note: **Your loving Father understands...**

- you often don't know what to pray *"but I'm showing up!"*
- you often have a hard time expressing yourself (*Dads*)

God joins in with you, and talks to himself when you talk to him!

Q: Ever carry on a conversation w self while someone's talking to you?
All the time! **Your H. Father does too!**

ILL: *As a dad- when my kids... Patio*
On patio- listening & praying for you

WRITE PG 68-70

3RD I LOOK INWARD TO JESUS LIVING INSIDE ME!

Remember, Jesus isn't just in heaven! *He's as close as you!*

Remember: God is Trinity. So shock: Saved.... **Trinity in you!**
Write: ALL 3 IN ME! That's personal!

Then, since I know I'm unconditionally accepted by my H Father it gives me the freedom & courage to honestly face my faults.

2 COR.13:5 "Examine yourself to see if your faith is real and growing. Test yourself. Remember that Jesus is living in you – unless you've failed your test."

Would anyone here like to be better than you are?

FACT: I can't GET BETTER until I FACE what needs to be changed!

PR.28:13 "If you try to hide your sins, you will never succeed. But if you humbly confess and reject them, you will receive mercy."

LB: "You get another chance"

Secret: God already knows what you need to work on.

But when you start being honest to God-
it takes you to a new level of intimacy.

Everyone wants intimacy in a relationship-
but they don't want the honesty required. You must be willing to open up!
You invite God into (*what you think*) are your "secret areas"

You spell Intimacy (screen) "**INTO ME SEE**"

Where start? GAL.5:22-23 **Use 9 Fruit of the Spirit as a checklist.**
(picture of Jesus) **Pray** “*Jesus, produce some Fruit in me today!*”

Backward- Cross, **Upward-**Father’s Face **Inward-** Jesus in me

4. **I LOOK AROUND & ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT TO USE ME!**

Instead of criticizing...complaining...judging ...whining... blogging
Offer yourself to be a solution! **“USE ME!”**

ROM. 6:13 “...Give yourself completely to God--every part of you-- since you’ve been given a new life, and you want to be used as a tool in the hands of God, used for his good purposes.” (LB)

The World is **waiting** for your contribution! *needs your help!* h

The best launchpad- **your church family!** Retake Class 301

Finally (5th dimension)

5. **I LOOK FORWARD TO MY FUTURE IN FAITH!**

Now you talk to your Father about **the day ahead of you.**

Father.... What should I **prioritize** on my list?
What **decision** should I make?
Who should I **contact** that could help me out?
What should I **say** at that meeting?

BOOKS say: Enlist a “*Mastermind Counsel*” to coach your life.

I recommend the Trinity! **How do they coach?**
A foolproof manual with all the answers! **BIBLE!**

o The more you get in this Book, the more confident you’ll be.

BESIDE: **Ultimately - as God’s child- your Father guarantees...win!**

PH. 1:6 “*I am confident of this, that God who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus.*”

God doesn’t sponsor flops!

Now THIS is just *another way* to freshen up your prayer life.

Try it this week. We’re going to *practice right now* in communion

Jesus gave us a tool to remember these dimensions:

Called *The Lord’s Supper, Communion, Eucharist*
We’re going to take it together now

o **Take out the Communion Guide** in your program

I’ve prepared it to help you understand the significance of..

What is the purpose of Communion?

When Jesus transformed the Passover into the **Lord’s Supper**
he announced the reason twice: “**Do this to remember me!**”

- It is a reminder, a memory tool
- He doesn’t want you to ever forget...

What specifically are we to remember? In **1 COR. 11:20-34**

Paul explains that communion remind us of some very important truths!

But even before we take it, we first have **some heart-prep** to do

FIRST, COMMUNION REMINDS US TO CHECK OUR HEARTS

This is the 3rd Dimension of prayer that we just talked about

1 COR, 11: 27-31 “*If anyone eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an **unworthy manner**, that person is guilty of sinning against the Body and the Blood of the Lord. This is why you **should examine yourself before eating** the bread and drinking from the cup. For if you eat the bread or drink the cup without recognizing (committing to) **the Body of Christ**, you are eating and drinking God’s judgment upon yourself. That is why many of you are weak and sick and some have even died! **BUT IF we examine and judge ourselves, we will not be judged by God.***” Only for those who have accepted Christ

TIP: Memorize **PS.139:23-23** screen “*Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*”

LET’S DO THIS RIGHT NOW (BOW)

COMMUNION REMINDS US OF 5 TRANSFORMING TRUTHS

write these down

1. NO ONE LOVES US MORE THAN OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN!

1 Cor. 11:23-25 “*For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; **do this in remembrance of me.**” In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; **do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.**”*”

Q: When (*time, day, or situation*) am I most likely to forget how much my Heavenly Father loves me?

Q: What sin(s) do I habitually fall for when I forget God’s love for me?

2nd great truth...

2. WE BELONG TO EACH OTHER IN GOD'S FAMILY!

In Corinth Church 3 big problems -ruining the Lord's Supper:

1st **Members in this church had unresolved conflict** with each other
They were disagreeing, taking sides, and even fighting each other!

2nd **They were acting like the Lord's Supper was for individuals!**
It's not! It's for the Church. The Body. Communion

SHOCK: Not a single time in the Bible does anyone take communion by themselves. It misses the whole point of "communion"!
You are part of a body!

3rd **They were oblivious to the needs of other people right in their own family**

They were putting their own needs ahead of everyone else
Paul confronted them on all 3 issues:

1 COR. 11:18,20-21 *"I hear that there are divisions among you when you MEET AS A CHURCH! (so)...When you COME TOGETHER, it is NOT the Lord's Supper you eat, for as you eat it, each of you goes ahead without waiting for anybody else! One member goes hungry among you while another gets drunk!"*

Q: What issue (or issues) have I made more important than being in harmony and unity with my brothers & sisters in God's Family?

Q: Would God be pleased with where my first loyalty has been?

1 Cor. 11:33 *"So, dear brothers and sisters, when you gather for the Lord's Supper wait for each other."*

Larger Principle: The Church should be the one place where we put each other's needs ahead of our own.

You don't really experience community *until you start giving back!*

Q: Can I give *any* example of where I've put the needs of my brothers & sisters in my church family ahead of my own needs?

Q: Do I know *anyone* in our church in need?

3. THE SPIRIT OF JESUS LIVES INSIDE ME!

John 6:56-57 *Jesus: "Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood live in me, and I LIVE IN THEM. The Living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father. So, whoever eats me will live because of me." (NCV)*

Q: What happens when I forget this fact?

4. THIS LIFE IS NOT THE END OF THE STORY!

JN. 6:53-54 *Jesus: "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you cannot have eternal life within you. BUT those who eat my flesh and drink my blood HAVE eternal life, and I will raise them at the last day." (NLT)*

Q: Am I using my time and money as if all that matters is this life?

Am I investing anything in the next life where I will spend eternity?
What would change if I kept reminding myself to ask "How long will this last?"

5. JESUS IS COMING BACK ONE DAY TO JUDGE & REWARD

1 COR. 11:26 *"For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord's death until he comes again!"*

Lead people to Jesus
PRAY: Ask Ushers to come