



Developing Prayer Habits - 3

“And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.” Matthew 6:7

We like to pray certain phrases that sound so pious that we string them together and call it prayer. Much of the time we do not even think about what we are saying: "Lord, be with me as I go on this trip." Jesus said, "Surely I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20).

Or perhaps you might say, "Lord bless me today as I ..." Why do you think you have to ask for that? Perhaps a better prayer might be "Lord help me conform to Your will today..." or "Lord let me have an experience of you today that changes my life, not matter the cost." They are more dangerous prayers but more personal too.

We do not need to ask God to be with us if we are members of His family; we just need to become more aware of His presence. Asking God to be with us when He is already there, is a kind of 'babbling'. God does not want you to pile up impressive phrases or use words without thinking about their meaning. He wants you to talk from your heart - as you would to a parent you love and trust. Someone who is right there with you.

God says: "You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13).

God knows how you feel - and He cares.

God knows what you need – and He will provide.

God knows what your fear – and He will protect.

Nothing matters as much to Him as what is going on in your life right now. So talk to Him - from your heart!

Heavenly Father, forgive me the times I simply talk at you with words I do not think about. Help me to share my heart – and listen with all my soul. In Jesus' Name, Amen

Unleash Your Faith



Living with Fire

➤ **Yahweh is an All Consuming Fire**

Too often we make God out to be a cute and cuddly grandfather, when in reality the Glory of God is a terrible reality.

“Be careful not to forget the covenant of the LORD your God that he made with you; For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God” Deut 4:23

➤ **Sin is far more destructive than we realize**

“Everyone who does any of these detestable things—such persons must be cut off from their people.” Leviticus 18:29

Quarantine

➤ **Leviticus is all about the sacrifice of Jesus**

“How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!” Hebrews 9:14

A Personal Encounter with God

Gratitude - “Let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our “God is a consuming fire.” Hebrews 12:28-29

Change -- “Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am the LORD your God. And you shall keep My statutes, and perform them: I am the LORD who sanctifies you.” Leviticus 20:7-8

Community - “Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.” Lev 19:18

Leviticus 17:8-12

⁸ “Say to them: ‘Any Israelite or any alien living among them who offers a burnt offering or sacrifice ⁹ and does not bring it to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting to sacrifice it to the LORD—that man must be cut off from his people.

¹⁰ “Any Israelite or any alien living among them who eats any blood—I will set my face against that person who eats blood and will cut him off from his people. ¹¹ For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one’s life. ¹² Therefore I say to the Israelites, “None of you may eat blood, nor may an alien living among you eat blood.”

Leviticus 6:24-30

²⁴ The LORD said to Moses, ²⁵ “Say to Aaron and his sons: ‘These are the regulations for the sin offering: The sin offering is to be slaughtered before the LORD in the place the burnt offering is slaughtered; it is most holy. ²⁶ The priest who offers it shall eat it; it is to be eaten in a holy place, in the courtyard of the Tent of Meeting. ²⁷ Whatever touches any of the flesh will become holy, and if any of the blood is spattered on a garment, you must wash it in a holy place. ²⁸ The clay pot the meat is cooked in must be broken; but if it is cooked in a bronze pot, the pot is to be scoured and rinsed with water. ²⁹ Any male in a priest’s family may eat it; it is most holy. ³⁰ But any sin offering whose blood is brought into the Tent of Meeting to make atonement in the Holy Place must not be eaten; it must be burned.