

The Habit of Personal Prayer

The Seven Habits of Growing Christians #4 Pastor Jonathan Minter – 9/28/14 – Psalm 103

Series theme verse: 1 Peter 2:2-3 (NIV) Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may **grow up** in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Developing the three movements of personal prayer:

Psalm 103:1-5 (ESV) ¹Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! ²Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, ³who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, ⁴who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, ⁵who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

1. _____ asking God for personal transformation.

Romans 8:1 (ESV) There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 4:15-16 (NLT) This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

Psalm 26:2 (NLT) Put me on trial, Lord, and cross-examine me. Test my motives and my heart.

Psalm 103:6-18 (ESV) ⁶The Lord works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. ⁷He made known his ways to Moses his acts to the people of Israel. ⁸The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. ⁹He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. ¹⁰He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. ¹¹For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; ¹²as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. ¹³As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him. ¹⁴For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust. ¹⁵As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; ¹⁶for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. ¹⁷But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, ¹⁸to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.

2. _____ asking God for greater intimacy.

Exodus 34:6-7 (ESV) The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin..."

Psalms 121:1-2 (NIV) A song of ascents. I lift up my eyes to the hills-- where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

2 Peter 1:3 (MSG) Everything that goes into a life of pleasing God has been miraculously given to us by getting to know, personally and intimately, the One who invited us to God. The best invitation we ever received!

Psalms 103:19-22 (ESV) 19The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all. 20Bless the Lord, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word! 21Bless the Lord, all his hosts, his ministers, who do his will! 22Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul!

3. _____ asking God for His Kingdom to come.

Matthew 6:9-10 (ESV) Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

1 John 5:14 (ESV) And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.