

Scripture: Matt. 7:7-12 – Ephesians 2:11-22
Singing: 392:1, 2, 6 – 293:1-3 – 432:2, 4 – 451:1, 10

LD 46

A. Why study the Lord's prayer? 1 Cor. 14:15

B. Reading and Meditation are the parents of prayer (Lewis Bayley)

HOW SAINTS ARE TO START THEIR PRAYERS TO GOD?

- I. A fitting address for God II. A confession of their relationship to God
III. An expression of their worship of God

I. Prayer should have a fitting address

A. The address identifies who we ask to hear us in prayer

B. Jesus model Prayer begins with the address *Our Father*

1. This Lord's prayer is the *disciples' prayer* instead of a *generic prayer*

a. John 1:12 identifies our privilege as 'children'

2. The address *our Father* isn't just a reference to 1st Person but the Trinity

3. The address in our prayers is not limited to "our Father"

a. Biblical prayers reveal other names or attributes as address

● NT: Acts 4:24; Rom. 15:5-6, 13; Eph. 3:14-15

● OT: Kings 18:36-37; 2 Kings 19:15ff; Daniel 9:4

4. Learn to *pause* before you *speak* in presence of God: Is. 6:1-3; Prov. 25:6

II. The address should contain a confession of our relationship

A. The address Jesus commands to be used is not just a *title of honor*:

B. The address is a personal rather than a formal one: *Our Father*

1. This implies a relationship between Him/us

2. This relationship forms foundation of our prayers: Rom. 5:1-2; Eph. 2:18;

Eph. 3:12

C. Jesus trained up His ‘children’ to think and address God as *their Father*: Matt. 5:16, 45, 48

1. The choice ‘Abba - Father’ was deliberate

2. All children of God have the privilege to use Abba (Gal. 4:6-7; Rom. 8:15)

D. Reflect: Jesus commands us to draw near to God’s bosom

1. Not like Esther came to her husband Ahasuerus

2. Yet also not like an equal

III. The address should contain an expression of our worship

A. The words ‘which art in heaven’ is a confession of His greatness

1. ‘in heaven’ does not mean He is just bigger than us

2. ‘in heaven’ means He is infinite: 1 Tim. 6:16

3. ‘in heaven’ means Is. 6:1-3; Rev. 4:10-12; 5:11-14

B. Our address should always contain an expression of our worship of God

1. ‘which art in heaven’ is not the only phrase to be used

2. Pause to ponder how/what you will say as you address your holy Father

a. meditate on Heb 12:28-29 & John 17:11, 25

C. Our address should contain a confession of faith in Him (see Psalms)

D. Reflect: As child of God, do you approach Him in faith?

1. Matt. 7:7-11 & Luke 11:11-13