

Blessings of Adversity
Lesson 3 - Part 2
“Meet the Challenge of Dark Days”
Nov. 20, 2022
MASTER COPY
(Read pages 22-24)

Prayer is not an easy way of getting what we want, but the only way of becoming what God wants us to be.

- Kneeling in prayer keeps us in good standing with our faith and ourselves!
- Prayer is the gymnasium of our soul!

I. Discover the nature of true prayer

What a statement! What an interesting emphasis: True Prayer!
Given this term, then there must be a form of prayer that can be viewed as not true.

- **If that which is above us is not within us, we will always yield to that which is around us.**
- **Rom. 8:28** ²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

A. Jesus' warning

- **Matt. 6:5-8** ⁵ And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. ⁶ But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. ⁷ But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. ⁸ Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

- Prayer should not be solely concerned about what is heard or who is doing the hearing!

B. A poor example of prayer and petitioner

➤ **Luke 18:9-14** ⁹ And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: ¹⁰ Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. ¹² I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. ¹³ And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

- **The Pharisee went to impress God and others who may have been near about of his own righteousness.**

C. Jesus' examples of prayer

- Prayer is about casting your cares upon Him.
- What is true prayer to you?

II. Allow God to transform the darkness of your yesterdays into brighter todays.

A. Don't let your yesterdays take up too much of your today and none of your tomorrow.

- **You have to make a personal decision to live forward and not in life's reverse gear.**

B. Often broken people live daily with their yesterdays.

C. God is our light

➤ **Psalm 27:1-2** The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
² When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.

D. God is a transformer

- He has a brighter purpose
- He has a more glorious end

E. Does your life needs to review your sense of true prayer?

F. Is there a need to make your prayer life more intense and intentional?