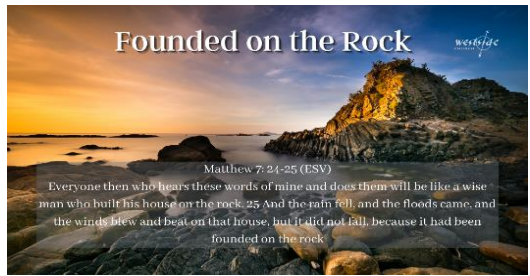


2-20-2022



Talking to God Part 2 Personal Prayer

Ecclesiastes 7:14–24 (ESV)

¹⁴In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other, so that man may not find out anything that will be after him. ¹⁵In my vain life I have seen everything. There is a righteous man who perishes in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man who prolongs his life in his evildoing. ¹⁶Be not overly righteous, and do not make yourself too wise. Why should you destroy yourself? ¹⁷Be not overly wicked, neither be a fool. Why should you die before your time? ¹⁸It is good that you should take hold of this, and from that withhold not your hand, for the one who fears God shall come out from both of them. ¹⁹Wisdom gives strength to the wise man more than ten rulers who are in a city. ²⁰Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins. ²¹Do not take to heart all the things that people say, lest you hear your servant cursing you. ²²Your heart knows that many times you yourself have cursed others. ²³All this I have tested by wisdom. I said, "I will be wise," but it was far from me. ²⁴That which has been is far off, and deep, very deep; who can find it out?

1. Why do we pray?

a. To Know God

i. Wrestling with God

Psalms 39:4–13 (ESV)

⁴O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am! ⁵Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing before you. Surely all

mankind stands as a mere breath! Selah ⁶Surely a man goes about as a shadow! Surely for nothing they are in turmoil; man heaps up wealth and does not know who will gather! ⁷“And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you. ⁸Deliver me from all my transgressions. Do not make me the scorn of the fool! ⁹I am mute; I do not open my mouth, for it is you who have done it. ¹⁰Remove your stroke from me; I am spent by the hostility of your hand. ¹¹When you discipline a man with rebukes for sin, you consume like a moth what is dear to him; surely all mankind is a mere breath! Selah ¹²“Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry; hold not your peace at my tears! For I am a sojourner with you, a guest, like all my fathers. ¹³Look away from me, that I may smile again, before I depart and am no more!”

ii. Walking with God

Psalm 25:11–18 (ESV)

¹¹For your name’s sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great. ¹²Who is the man who fears the LORD? Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose. ¹³His soul shall abide in well-being, and his offspring shall inherit the land. ¹⁴The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant. ¹⁵My eyes are ever toward the LORD, for he will pluck my feet out of the net. ¹⁶Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. ¹⁷The troubles of my heart are enlarged; bring me out of my distresses. ¹⁸Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins.

b. To Beseech God

Matthew 7:7–11 (ESV)

⁷“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ⁹Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? ¹¹If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

i. For blessing

ii. For intervention

iii. For wisdom/direction

2. How do we pray?

a. With a pure heart

James 4:1–10 (ESV)

¹What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ²You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. ⁴You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”? ⁶But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

b. With God’s purposes in mind

John 15:15–17 (ESV)

¹⁵No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

c. Privately/purposefully

Matthew 6:5–8 (ESV)

⁵“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁷“And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Testimonies

John 16:25–33 (ESV)

²⁵“I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. ²⁶In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; ²⁷for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. ²⁸I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.” ²⁹His disciples said, “Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! ³⁰Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God.” ³¹Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? ³²Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. ³³I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

Matthew 7:24–25 (ESV)

²⁴“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.