DO YOU BELIEVE…..REALLY BELIEVE?

Thank you Tracy for asking me to speak at this conference.

My subject is one that wont surprise you. But one that I hope will encourage you\ to enlighten you. It's prayer. Do you believe n the power of prayer? Do you believe that God hears when you pray? Will He Answer your prayers? God says our prayers are like incense to Him.

Lets turn to Mat.6-Lets start with a prayer….

The Lords Prayer

- Our Father in heaven
- May your Name be held in honor
- May Your Kingdom come
- May Your Will be carried out on earth as it is in Heaven
- Please give us today the bread we need to live each day
- And forgive our sins as we have forgiven those who have sinned against us
- Do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil One
- For Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen

Do you believe in this prayer? Do you believe Jesus gave this as a example for us today?

Scripture says in Jn 12:49-I have **not** spoken of myself, but the Father which sent me…He gave me what I should say and what I should speak. Obviously the Father approves of this prayer.

John 14:10-"I am in the Father and the Father is in me. The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own initiative but the Father abiding in me does His work."

We have to believe that?

When we pray, do we have to follow this guideline EVERYTIME we pray? There might be circumstances when we need to pray at once…a quick prayer…like for protection or someone asks you to pray for them. I'm sure God will hear you. A meaningful short prayer of gratefulness as you walk in nature praising God for everything is wonderful

Matt.6:7- Warns us though ….do not use meaningless repetition…Does that mean we should never repeat a prayer? NO…..Jesus himself prayed the same prayer more than once. Mat.26:44…"he prayed the 3rd time saying the same words"

The difference or distinction is between meaningless repetitions and heartfelt persistence.

As a routine, your conversations with God should be more than a -quicky. The point is to have regular contact with your Father. It might be several times a day…Psa. 19 "Let the words of my mouth and the meditaions of my heart be acceptable in Your sight." God wants to hear from us. Do you believe that?

Why pray at all? God knows everything? Mat.6:8- the Father knows what you need before you ask" & Isa.65:24-"It will also come to pass that before they call, I will answer and while they are still speaking, I will hear"

Pray without ceasing…IThes.5:17

Prayer enhances our belief system..we are getting to know the one who knows us!! Prayer is an expression of dependence, trust and relationship with Him.

Make prayer NEW every time!!

Jesus says when we pray go into a closet……shut the door….be quiet…alone…just you and God. Do not bring your phone or anything that will distract you. Bringing a Bible, meditating on Gods words is also helpful. Let's go through the Lord's prayer starting with….

<u>OUR FATHER</u>

What is a father? Some of us might not have a very clear picture of what a good father would be like. So here's a list of what I came up with. Some of our earthly fathers had some of these qualities. But as I go through the list think about God having ALL of these don't think about how your father failed.

Deut.32:3-4-"For I proclaim the name of the LORD; ascribe greatness to our God: The Rock! His **work** is perfect. For all His **ways** are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice; righteous and upright is HE ! Isa.64:8-"You are our Father. We are the clay…..YOU are the Potter.And all of us are the works of your hand.

Isn't that wonderful….exciting

So now let us look at just some of God's traits….make up your own list to help with edifying God's name

- Loves unconditionally…..I John 4:8 (God is love) Rom.5;8 (gave His son because He Loved us)
- Provides for His children's needs (Mat. 6:26) birds they don't worry what they should eat, God looks after them…how much more are we.
- He protects His children….(Psa.4- "a very PRESENT help) we will never be alone in difficulties (Isa. 41:10) " fear not I am with you."
- He disciplines out of love…(Prov.3:11-12) "those He loves, He reprove"s
- God forgives us…Psa.103:11-12-removes our transgressions from us as far as east is from the west" God is faithful to forgive..I Jn.1:9
- He teaches what is right (read all of Eph 6)"does not provoke his children" also John 17:17 My word is truth also Psa.119:160-"Your word is truth"
- He is patient, compassionate and understanding of our needs/weaknesses (Psa.103:13) to those who fear Him
- He listens to us…(Psa.34:15)"His ears are open." (IJohn 5:14)" we ask according to His will, He hears us"
- He is present…(Heb. 13:5)Last part…"I will never desert you"

- He leads by example…we need to walk the walk…(I Peter 2:21/John 13;5/I John 2:6) Father told Jesus what to do….(John 5:19/John 8:28/John 12:49) so he is our example
- He delights in His children (Zeph 3:17 rejoice over you with shouts of joy"/Psa 147:4 takes pleasure in those who reverence Him/Psa 149:4 takes pleasure in His people" find that in many of the psalms

Do you believe this? That God is all these things? And more…

We are talking about the one and only true God-the Great God of the Universe-our Creator! God has no beginning/no end….**that's hard to believe but if we know God our Father we can/will accept that easily**

It helps to prove God exists!!! Have you ever researched how a giraffe can stand up……how a hummingbird can hover and fly backwards….how the platypus exists?? How the human body operates… There is a God, a God of personality, a God of humor, a God of awesomeness!!!!

We need to reverence His name and give Him all the glory.

Heaven?

The Bible from Genesis to Revelation presents heaven as Gods dwelling place. ONE EXAMPLE: IS (Psa. 11:4-the LORD is in His Holy Temple the LORDs throne is in heaven") (Isa. 66:1) Heaven is My throne…Jesus talked about sitting at the right hand of God on His throne…

Read on your own Ezekiel 1 Its incredible as it describes the vision of the four figures around Gods throne. Verse 26-28-…on a throne…was a figure with the appearance of a man. He then describes His glory.

Isaiah 6:1…..I saw the LORD sitting on a throne….

Daniel 7:9-10-Daniel describes the Ancient of Days-God-with clothing white as snow and hair like pure wool. His throne was like a fiery flame with burning fire flowing from it

Rev. 4:2-3-John saw a throne in heaven, with one seated upon it. He described the One seated there as having the appearance of precious stones, and a rainbow resembling an emerald surrounding the throne.

A sea of glass, 24 elders, four living creators and thousands of angels …can you believe this?

Do you believe this? Or is it a fairy tale?

.

HOW HOLY IS YOUR NAME.

From the above can you praise God? Have you ever looked up words that would give glory to God? ….how do you feel about God so far?

Holy is His name means He is sacred, spiritually pure. Isa. 6:3

God is omnipresent Psa.139:7-10 Omniscient, He knows everything Past, Present and Future I John 3:20….Omnipotent, He is powerful, nothing is too difficult for Him Jer.32:17….Sovereign-God is supreme ruler has supreme power over His Creation. Let's read Exo.34:6…" abounding in lovingkindness and truth" and theres many more scriptures!!!!

Read Psa. 111:2-10-"great are the works of God….splendid and majestic is His works" please continue to read all of Psa111.

YOUR KINGDOM COME/YOUR WILL BE DONE/ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

If you haven't read Tracy's August article in the Focus Magazine, please do so.

Mat.6:33…seek first kog

Jesus talked a lot about the Kingdom of God. It was his commission (and ours) why he was born to preach. It is our hope of eternal life. We also must preach the Kingdom. **Let's read Isaiah 11:6**…..the first part of God;s kingdom. Then God will descend from heaven and bring New Jerusalem with Him ***on the earth*** **Rev.21 & 22-**….,New Heaven/New Earth. (I willRead that later on)

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD

Mat.6:25-34 read

We have to trust God to provide what we need daily

Psa 34:10 "But they who seek God shall not be in want of any good thing"

Our daily bread can also remind us not only of God providing our physical needs but also of our continual need for Christ and the word of God Do you believe this?

FORGIVE OUR SINS AS WE HAVE FORGIVEN THOSE WHO HAVE SINNED AGAINST US

Forgiveness is releasing the desire for personal revenge

In Rom. 12:9 it says,"Not holding bitterness, hatred or selfishness..abhor what is evil: cling to what is good"

Read on your own Psa. 103….great verses to meditate on, its all about Gods mercies

We must entrust justice to God. Choosing not to hold another person's sin against them. Being willing to seek reconciliation when it is possible and wise read Matt. 18:35 on forgiveness

AS WE FORGIVE…Jesus is not teaching that we earn God's forgiveness by forgiving others. Scripture is clear that forgiveness comes by God's grace, through faith not by our works. (Mat. 6:14-15)

Mat.18:21-22-forgive 70 x 7

LOVE DOES NOT KEEP A RECORD OF WRONGS!

DONOT BRING US INTO TEMPTATION BUT DELIVER US FROM THE EVIL ONE

James 1:13 says "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil nor tempts no man" God does not entice us to do evil. I Cor.10:13-God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape." Do you believe that?

Mat.26:41-"Watch and pray, that you enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing but the flesh is weak."II Pet.2:9-"The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations"

Ask God to guard us and guide us so that we do not fall into temptation/have a mindset on obedience

ARMOUR OF GOD……Eph.6:10

Paul uses the picture of a Roman soldier's armour to teach us how believers stand firm against evil

1. **Belt of Truth**- truth holds everything together…God's truth/His words
2. **Breastplate of righteousness**-protects the heart. Our heart should be to live in righteousness, relying on God's righteousness.
3. **Shoes of the Gospel of peace**….prepare to stand and carry the good news of peace thru Christ/Gospel/Good News.
4. **Shield of Faith**….faith in God to protect us against fear, doubts and temptations. Faith in God to direct us as we seek His truths.

5. **Helmet of Salvation**…..a helmet protects the head…keep our minds anchored in the salvation God has provided.
6. **Sword of the Spirit**….Word of God…..JC answered Satans temptations with scriptures…we must know the scriptures.

We must continually have the armour on to stand in truth, faith, and righteousness/search Gods word and pray.Eph.6:10-13….withstand in the evil day and having done all….to STAND…..strong in the Lord and in the power of His might

<u>FOR YOURS IS THE KINGDOM, THE POWER, AND THE GLORIY, FOREVER.</u>

In Mat. 6:33 it says "but seek first the Kingdom of GOD and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you"

OUR HOPE….AND THE HOPE OF EVERYONE….DEAD OR ALIVE AT JESUS' COMING…will eventually have ETERNAL LIFE…AT THE SECOND RESURRECTION.

Read Rev.20-First there is a first resurrection, then the second then….

Rev. 21:1-"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth…..I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God…..He will live with them!!! Can you believe That!! He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, death will not exist anymore….no more pain, tears…

Please continue to read on. Everything will be new!!!

Why do we pray? We are told to…..we should want to communicate with the one who created us….to get to know Him…..His plan for us and for man kind…..to align our will to His will so we know how to pray to receive strength and help….wisdom….peace…

Ultimately all things come from God. We should want to bring our burdens to the ONE who understands because He created us.

Prayer can change us. Rom. 12:2 In prayer we ask for wisdom, peace, patience and faith. Prayer can keep us spiritually alert and our will in submission..Mat. 6:6

We must remember that prayer is NOT primarily about informing God of our needs….it is about having a fellowship with HIM. It connects us with our Father. Mat.6:8 Just as an eaRTHLY. This instills trust. Prov 3:5

Prayer brings peace within us. (Phil. 4:6-7) Prayer changes us by changing our circumstances or changes us in the midst of them!

We pray….for fellowship with God by speaking to Him, including listening, trusting, waiting, worshipping, confessing, asking. We seek for change in ourselves.

GOD RESPONDS:

- Through scriptures
- Through wisdom and guidance by HS
- Through circumstances and timing
- Through silence that teaches us trust and perserverance

We will grow with discernment over time.

DO YOU BELIEVE THIS?

In summary…..throughout scriptures prayers are fundamentally about coming to the One True God,trusting His character, remembering His promises and then bringing our needs and the needs of others before HIM.

,WE PRAY FOR:

- GOD'S KINGDOM TO COME
- GOD'S WORK TO BE DONE…..that also means donations to the work

- BRETHREN WORLDWIDE. Protection/food/water/for the lonely/for those who are suffering pain.
- MINISTERS INSPIRATION/preach boldly in love
- More people to seek and come to truth
- OUR NEEDS

Surround yourself with God's words

Attend the many bible studies as you can or listen to replays

REMEMBER

NOT TO FEAR/GOD IS NEAR AND HE HEARS!!!

I pray this presentation will bring you closer to God our Father and to His son Jesus our mediator.

Prayers are important for they too are a way and form of preaching the gospel. They also help during our race. To complete our calling and stand before Jesus. To hear Jesus say "Well done good and faithful servant"…Be steadfast in hope and let prayers anchor you as we look forward to coming Kingdom of GOD