

THE MODEL PRAYER AND RELATIONSHIP

(Matthew 6:9-13)

- I. Relationship to God's FAMILY—"OUR Father" (Matt. 6:9a)
 - A. Prayer is WEAKENED by a spirit of INDEPENDENCE
 1. You can never truly pray ALONE (Eph. 3:14-15)
 2. You can never truly pray INDEPENDENTLY (Eph. 4:17-18)
 - B. Prayer is DEFEATED by a spirit of SELF-INTEREST
 1. We must have a FORBEARING spirit (Eph. 4:2)
 - a. REFRAINING from responding to others as their actions DESERVE
 - b. REFUSING to allow others' actions to make you BITTER
 2. We must have a FORGIVING spirit (Matt. 6:14-15)
 - a. REQUIRES the offender's REQUEST for forgiveness (Luke 17:3-4)
 - b. RELEASES the offender from the DEBT owed you (Matt. 18:23-35)
 - c. RESTORES the offender to the FELLOWSHIP (Matt. 18:15-22)

3. We must have a HUMBLE spirit (Luke 18:9-14)
 - a. Not engaged in STRIFE (1 Tim. 2:8)
 - b. Not focused on SELF (James 4:1-3)
4. We must have a LOVING spirit (1 Peter 3:1-7)

II. Relationship to GOD—"Our FATHER" (Matt. 6:9a)

A. Prayer is FOUNDED on FAITH

1. We must believe in JESUS as the SON of God (John 1:11-13; 1 John 2:23)
2. We must WALK with Christ and KNOW His word (John 15:7)
3. We must ask in Jesus' NAME and for His SAKE (John 14:13-14; 15:16)

B. Prayer must come from a CLEAN HEART

1. We must not harbor WICKEDNESS in our HEARTS (Ps. 66:18)
2. We must not "walk in DARKNESS" but "walk in the LIGHT" (1 John 1:6-9)

III. Conclusion—Prayer truly addressed to "OUR FATHER who is in heaven"...

- A. Brings UNITY to God's PEOPLE
- B. Brings FELLOWSHIP with the FATHER
- C. Brings JOY to the Father's HEART
- D. Brings GLORY to the Father's NAME