



THE PRAYER CLOSET

Encouraging & Equipping Believers in Prayer

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ISSUE 2

WHO IS JESUS? (AND HOW DOES THIS AFFECT MY PRAYING?)

Jesus. What a name! There is no other name like it. There is no one else like Him. Nothing in this world can compare to Him. When you speak the name "Jesus," it has power. The very mention of His name causes you to pause and to reflect. There is no other name like His in all of time and eternity. As the hymn-writer declares:

There is a name I love to hear,
I love to sing its worth;
It sounds as music in my ear,
The sweetest name on earth.

The Word of God declares this, "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name" (**Philippians 2:9**). Jesus Christ is the most unique and crucial person who has ever lived. His name reveals this.

The name of Jesus represents who He is. His name reveals who He is. For the believer, He is the Author and Finisher of our faith, "Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God"

(**Hebrews 12:2**). This mighty Jesus is our Savior – the One who saves us and sustains us. He is the reason for our salvation. He is the One who has brought us into this glorious salvation. He is the One who will lead us through our lives until we enter heaven for the consummation of our salvation.

Jesus Christ is the heart of Christianity. Through Christ, there is forgiveness with God. There is acceptance with God. There is hope of heaven. There is no true peace and comfort in this life apart from Him. Because of Him, there is the reality of genuine change in your life. Without Him, we have no way of experiencing these things. He is central to our salvation, our new life, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (**John 14:6**).

Since Jesus is unique and central to your salvation, how should He affect your prayer life? How should your relationship to Jesus Christ affect the way that you pray? In this issue of *The Prayer Closet*, we will examine how Jesus affects our praying. We will look at how our knowledge and experience of Him can shape and sharpen our prayer lives.

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Jesus – The Son Of God

The central issue of Christianity is not the teachings of a man called Jesus but the person of Jesus Christ Himself. Jesus is more than a good example, a teacher of morality, or a religious prophet. He is the very Son of God. Jesus Christ claimed to be the Son of God and that claim was central to everything that He taught, "And Simon Peter answered and said, 'Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered and said unto him, 'Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-Jo-na; for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but My Father which is in heaven'" (**Matthew 16:16-17**).

When asked if He was the Son of God, He did not deny it but affirmed it, "But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked Him, and said unto Him, 'Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?' And Jesus said, 'I am'" (**Mark 14:61-62**). Jesus claimed to with clear and unmistakable confessions that He is the Son of God.

Because Jesus is the Son of God, it shows us that He is God in human flesh. In biblical times, the firstborn son was equal to the father. As the Son of God, Jesus is equal to the Father – He is God in human flesh, "I and my Father are one" (**John 10:30**). John confirms this truth in **John 10:33**, "The Jews answered him, saying, 'For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.'" Jesus is God in human flesh – equal to the Father in power and glory!

How should the fact that Jesus is the Son of God affect your praying?

- *Fill your prayers with praise for Jesus Christ.* Jesus Christ is God! He is worthy of all our praise. He is fully God. Because of this, we must adore Him and sing His praise.
- *Saturate your prayers with the words of Christ.* When Christ speaks, it is the words of the eternal God. He backs up His words with all the power and authority of God. Plead His promises. Pray for the grace and power to fulfill His commands. Cry out to Him concerning His warnings. Fill your praying with the words of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, God in human flesh.

- *Pray with boldness.* When you pray to the Father, you approach Him in the name of Jesus. This should give you confidence and faith to pray boldly. You come to the Father through Jesus His Son (**John 14:12-14**). God hears you because of His Son. Put away your doubt and feelings of worthlessness. Boldly approach your Father for you come in the name of His only Son, Jesus Christ. He accepts and loves you because of His Son. Pray accordingly!

Jesus – The Son Of Man

The title "Son Of Man" teaches us that Jesus Christ is fully human. He is both fully God and fully man. He is not 50% God and 50% man. He is 100% God and 100% man. He is one person with two distinct natures – divine and human. When Jesus refers to Himself as the Son Of Man, He points to the fact that He is fully man. Jesus Christ is a true man – taking on Himself flesh and blood and living in the world as a man.

Jesus Christ entered this world through the virgin birth. The Holy Spirit conceived Jesus in the womb of the virgin Mary by His almighty power, "And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God" (**Luke 1:35**).

Jesus Christ entered this world as a man. He walked and lived among men as a man, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth" (**John 1:14**). He grew hungry. He thirsted. He experienced weariness. He wept. He prayed. He suffered. He faced temptation. He died. Jesus experience life like you do – as a true man in a fallen world.

How should this affect your praying?

- *Jesus' humanity shows you that you have a sympathetic ear in heaven.* When you call on Jesus, He understands your experience. He lived as a man in this fallen world. He walked through the same kinds of experiences that you do. He experienced life

as a man and can sympathize with you. Cast your burdens on Him. He knows. He has been here. He has faced life in a sinful world. He loves you and wants you to share all your heart with Him.

- *Plead that your life will be conformed to His.* As a man, Jesus provides the example for what the Father wants for you. The Father desires to make you life His Son. Our praying should reflect this. We must plead that God will shape and mold us, pruning and changing us that we might become like Him. Plead that you will have Jesus' heart, eyes, mind, passion, and faithfulness. Cry out to God to conform you to His image.

Jesus – The Savior

God has sent Jesus as the Savior of sinners. He has anointed and appointed Jesus as the only way of salvation, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (**Acts 4:12**).

- *Fill your prayers with praise to God for your salvation.* Don't take your salvation for granted. Don't allow yourself to become complacent for the salvation you have received through Jesus Christ. Adore Jesus your Savior. Sing His praises. Exalt His name. He is the Savior that has delivered you from your sin and eternal hell.
- *Make praying for the lost a priority in your praying.* Jesus is the Savior. This is why He entered the world (**Luke 19:10**). It was His priority. It must be ours also. Ask Jesus the Savior how to pray the lost to Him. Plead with Him to teach you how to intercede for those who need Him. You are never closer to the heart of Jesus than when you pray for those who need Him.

Jesus – The Prophet

The Bible reveals that Jesus Christ is our Prophet. In the Old Testament, God promised to send His Son who will serve as our prophet, "For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the LORD your God raise up unto you of

your brethren, like unto me; Him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you" (**Acts 3:22**). The prophet declared the will of God to the people. He taught the truth of God to the people. As our prophet, Jesus came to reveal God and His will to us. He is our divine Teacher.

- *Plead with Christ to teach you.* Since Christ is your prophet, call on Him to show you the truth that you need. Ask Him to reveal the Father's will to you. Pray that He will guide you into all truth.
- *Depend on the Holy Spirit.* Christ our Prophet teaches us by the Holy Spirit, "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth" (**John 16:13**). Confess your need of the Holy Spirit. Acknowledge that you cannot understand anything apart from Christ revealing it to you by His Spirit.

Jesus Christ – The Priest

The Word of God reveals that Jesus Christ is the priest of His people, "And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man (Jesus), after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God" (**Hebrews 10:11-12**). As your priest, Jesus has made the perfect sacrifice for your sins. You are accepted solely through the merits of Christ on the Cross of Calvary. Yet, He also intercedes for you, "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing that he ever liveth to make intercession for them" (**Hebrews 7:25**). Jesus, your Priest, has offered the once-for-all perfect sacrifice for you and prays continually for you.

- *Remember that you always have someone who prays for you.* You may wonder sometimes if anyone prays for you. The Bible reveals that Jesus does. He loves you and intercedes for you. Jesus pleads for you even now at the right hand of the Father. Jesus stands in the gap for you. He lives to make intercession for you.
- *Plead with Jesus to help you in praying for others.* Jesus is the Master intercessor. He

knows how to intercede. Ask Him to teach you how to pray faithfully and powerfully for others.

- *Rest in the work of your Priest.* Jesus has reconciled you to God through His work on the Cross. Through Him, you are accepted and forgiven by God. Rejoice in this. Let this stir and motivate you to pray boldly. Because Jesus is your priest, "draw near (to God) with a true heart in full assurance of faith" (**Hebrews 10:22**).

Jesus – The King

Jesus Christ is the King of His people. God promised that Jesus would fulfill the role as King in our lives, "Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth" (**Jeremiah 23:5**). Jesus Himself declares that He is our king, "Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth" (**John 18:37**).

As our King, Jesus brings us under His reign. He sends His Word and Spirit forth to draw us to Him in faith and repentance. He rules over our lives in wisdom and power. He protects and delivers us from all our adversaries. He is the perfect King that directs our lives.

- *Bring all your fears and enemies to Jesus.* He is the powerful King that is able to defend and protect you. He is your loving King. He will come against anything that brings fear into your life. Your King will protect and preserve you, "And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen" (**2 Timothy 4:8**).
- *Cry out to Him in your temptations.* Jesus will fight for you and help you in the midst of your battles. He is a mighty Warrior and will join in your battles as you call on Him. Your King will not forsake you in the midst of the battles of your life.

- *Confess your trust in Him when you face adversity.* Jesus reigns in your life. He directs your life. He guides you along the path that the Father has for you. When you have adversity, call on your King for support and help. When you don't understand the way, pray to your King who knows the way.

Jesus – The Returning Lord

The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ will return to this earth. He will come back as the victorious Lord. He will return with all the glory and power of heaven, "For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ" (**Philippians 3:20**). One day our faith will turn to sight; we shall see Him, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see Him as He is" (**1 John 3:22**). What a glorious day! What a blessed truth! Jesus Christ is coming. He will return as Lord of lords and King of kings.

- *Our continual prayer should be, "Come, Lord Jesus, come."* The heart cry of every believer should be for Christ's coming. The return of Jesus is the great hope of every believer. As **Philippians 3:20** says, we are to "look" for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Christian is to live in the anticipation of Christ's return.
- *Plead with Christ to help you prepare for His return.* Jesus Christ will return. This is an absolute certainty. It will happen. Our fervent prayer must be that He will help us to prepare for it. We must call on Him to enable us to get ready for that glorious return.
- *Call on Christ to help you to be faithful until His return.* For Christians, we have one eye fixed on heaven and one on the earth. We are to look for Christ to return. Yet, we must remain faithful to Christ until then. Plead for the grace and power to finish the race that God has for you.
- *Pray that worldliness will not characterize your life.* Worldliness is the great enemy of being prepared for Christ's return. Being caught up in the pressures, problems,