



26 November 2023

Making Our Prayers More Meaningful and Effective



While the Bible has much information on the subject of prayer, it is important for us to understand we now live in the age of grace. In the Old Testament we read how certain ones cried to God to utterly destroyed their enemies and had their petitions granted with haste.

At the onset of His ministry, in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus clearly says that our idea of a good outcome may not always be what is the best in every situation. He put it in these words: *"Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you"* - Matthew 5:11-12.

Here are 5 suggestions to help us make our prayers more meaningful and effective.

1. Seek the Giver, not the gifts. Prayer is primarily talking with God but we have often reduced it to asking God for stuff. Jesus said in John 15:4, *"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me."*

2. Let God surprise you with His abundance. Too often we are afraid to ask God for His extravagant blessings that He is longing to shower upon us. God challenges us in Malachi 3:10 to *"prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of*

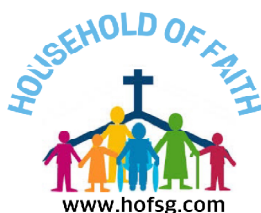
heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

3. Do not limit God with your request. Lay your needs before the Throne of grace and let God take over. Ephesians 3:20 reminds us, *"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us."*

4. Realise that every prayer is a partnership with God. It may require a personal rededication, an act of penitence or a first step on your part to realising the answer to your prayer. David understood this when he said in Psalms 51:17, *"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise"*.

5. Let God be God. His will be done. He will not grant your request if it goes against His sovereign will. Philippians 2:13 tells us *"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure"*.

As we pray and bring our requests to God, let us do it properly, in the way that God wants us to, not merely focusing on the results. Our recovery from illness may not be swift if suffering helps us rely more on Him!



Fidelity is published weekly by the Household of Faith meeting every Sunday @10:30am at block 67, #07-10 Ayer Rajah Crescent, Singapore 139950. Postal address: as above. Website: hofsg.com. Facebook group: Household of Faith, Supporters and Friends. Minister: Henry Kong (henry.kong@yahoo.com, mobile: 9326 0669).

Scan this QR Code if you wish to contribute via Scan To Pay ----->



Introduction

How to Enter the Kingdom

I. WHO ARE IN THE KINGDOM

- Their blessedness - Matthew 5:3-12
- The 8 Beatitudes
- Their relationship with the world - Matthew 5:13-16
- Let Your Light Shine

II. WHAT IS THE KINGDOM

- In contrast to the Law - Matthew 5:17-48
- From Legalism to Grace
- In relation to God - Matthew 6:1-33
- For Audience of One
- In relation to man - Matthew 7:1-12
- Let God be Judge

Introduction

How to Enter the Kingdom

I. WHO ARE IN THE KINGDOM

II. WHAT IS THE KINGDOM

III. HOW TO ENTER THE KINGDOM

- The beginning of the way - Matthew 7:13-14**
- The progress along the way - Matthew 7:15-20
- The end of the way - Matthew 7:21-27

Outline
How to Enter the Kingdom

Matthew 7:13-14

Matthew 7:13-14 *"Enter in by the narrow gate;
for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction,
and many are those who enter in by it.*

*How narrow is the gate, and restricted is the way that leads to life!
Few are those who find it.*

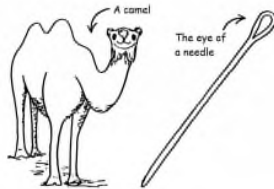
Sermon Mount

Outline How to Enter the Kingdom

Matthew 18:25-29

For it is easier for a camel to enter in through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of God." Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" But he said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

Peter said, "Look, we have left everything, and followed you." He said to them, "Most assuredly I tell you, there is no one who has left house, or wife, or brothers, or parents, or children, for the Kingdom of God's sake,



Sermon Mount

Outline How to Enter the Kingdom Matthew 7:13-14

Is it hard to get to Heaven?

Luke 14:16-24 *But he said to him, "A certain man made a great supper, and he invited many people. He sent out his servant at supper time to tell those who were invited, 'Come, for everything is ready now.'*

They all as one began to make excuses.

"The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please have me excused.'

"Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I must go try them out. Please have me excused.'

"Another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I can't come.'

Sermon Mount

Outline How to Enter the Kingdom Matthew 7:13-14

Is it hard to get to Heaven?

"That servant came, and told his lord these things.

Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor, maimed, blind, and lame.'

"The servant said, 'Lord, it is done as you commanded, and there is still room.'

"The lord said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.

For I tell you that none of those men who were invited will taste of my supper.'"

Sermon Mount

Outline
How to Enter the Kingdom
Matthew 7:13-14
Is it Hard to Get to Heaven?

Entrance into Heaven is free

Romans 5:14-15 *Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those whose sins weren't like Adam's disobedience, who is a foreshadowing of him who was to come. But the free gift isn't like the trespass.*

For if by the trespass of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God, and the gift by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many.



Sermon Mount

Outline
How to Enter the Kingdom
Matthew 7:13-14
Is it Hard to Get to Heaven?

Entrance into Heaven is free

Ephesians 2:8-9 *for by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves;*

it is the gift of God, not of works, that no one would boast.

Romans 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*



Sermon Mount


Outline
How to Enter the Kingdom
Matthew 7:13-14
Is it Hard to Get to Heaven?
Entrance to Heaven is Free

Free but not cheap

1 Peter 1:17-19 *If you call on him as Father, who without respect of persons judges according to each man's work, pass the time of your living as strangers here in reverent fear:*

knowing that you were redeemed, not with corruptible things, with silver or gold, from the useless way of life handed down from your fathers, but with precious blood, as of a faultless and pure lamb, the blood of Christ;





Sermon Mount

Outline
How to Enter the Kingdom
Matthew 7:13-14
Is it Hard to Get to Heaven?
Entrance to Heaven is Free

Free but not cheap

Mark 10:20-23 *He said to him, "Teacher, I have observed all these things from my youth."*


Jesus looking at him loved him, and said to him,

"One thing you lack. Go, sell whatever you have, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven;

and come, follow me, taking up the cross."

But his face fell at that saying, and he went away sorrowful, for he was one who had great possessions.

Jesus looked around, and said to his disciples, "How difficult it is for those who have riches to enter into the Kingdom of God!"



Sermon Mount

Outline
How to Enter the Kingdom
Matthew 7:13-14
Is it Hard to Get to Heaven?
Entrance to Heaven is Free


Free but not cheap

Luke 14:26-27 *"If anyone comes to me, and doesn't hate his own father, mother, wife, children, brothers, and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he can't be my disciple. Whoever doesn't bear his own cross, and come after me, can't be my disciple.*

Hebrews 12:1-2 *Therefore let us also, seeing we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily entangles us,*

and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith,

who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.



Sermon Mount

Outline
How to Enter the Kingdom
Matthew 7:13-14
Is it Hard to Get to Heaven?
Entrance to Heaven is Free
Free but not Cheap

Conclusion

Remember these 3 instructions

Born again - John 3:5 *Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*

Do God's will - Matthew 7:21 *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.*

Use Your talent - Matthew 25:21 *His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'*

BACK PAGE NEWS



Thank you for your effort in making our move to the morning a success: We have enjoyed new visitors, good attendance and increase in our adult Care teams.

Keep it up by coming at 10am for the Care teams and keep inviting your family and friends.

