

Prayer Ministry

Knowing God

- I. Opening
- II. Ministry Prayer
- III. Lesson: Knowing God

Two types of people who pray:

1. *Intuitive--visual forms, like impromptu prayers and tend toward mystical forms. 1/2 pop.*

2. *Sensate -- verbal forms, like prepared prayers (i.e., The Agenda). 1/2 pop.*

Three categories of Prayers:

1. *Ritual*

strength: a. *Consistent*

b. *Rich in thought and tradition*

weakness: a. *Magical tendency. "If we do this the right way it will work."*

b. *Mechanical tendency: It could lose the leading of the Holy Spirit.*

2. *Mystical: more of a mystery and more in the unknown*

strength: a. *Quietude*

b. *Power*

weakness: a. *too subjective*

b. *Sub-Christian: easy to lose Christian content*

3. *Petitional*

strength: a. *Specific*

b. *Persevering*

weakness: a. *selfish*

b. *Shallow: We may ask amiss.*

The Goal of Prayer: *Communion with God: A mature relationship, Intimacy.*

Prayer Begins With Awe and Reverence

Successful prayer begins with: *the identifying of God, we are not equals, we are His work*

How do we identify God? *many times w/ negative terms such as infinite and immortal. the prefix means "un" or not finite and not mortal. We understand being finite and mortal. We cannot know how much beyond finiteness or mortality He is. Our limitations keep us from understanding God's lack of limitations.*

God is also transcendent -- *to His story. He is beyond or other than what we are. - (Emergence in History)-(Transparent through History) Terms like "holy" or "gracious" are beyond thorough understanding. What all this says is Prayer begins with Awe and Reverence.*

What will genuine awe and reverence produce in us? *Humility*

Names of God

What names have you been called?

What do we learn from such names? *It says something of their relationship to me. Likewise, each name God gives us give us a different perspective of His desired relationship to us.*

God (Elohim) *Hebrew: translated God. All the power of creation is implied in this word. God is first (Mk 12:29-30) - first we seek Him (Mt 6:33). Elohim means God is the source. All we have comes from Him -- As a result when we consider Elohim we consider the sum of all Divine power.*

Lord (Adonai) *Translated Lord. God as Master and Owner. It first occurs in a prayer. Gen 15:2. The term implies dominion on Gods part and submission on our part.*

The English of Elohim Adonai is Lord God. When we say Lord God, now what do we mean?

Lord (Jehovah) *Yahweh: verb form God used for Himself, as Self-Existent and still, at the same time in the community. It is used early in Scriptures (Gen 2:4) but is the covenant name for God in the O.T. It's the name God used to send Moses to Israel. (Ex. 3:13-15) - Reverence for this name was so great that Israel would not pronounce it. they would use the word Adonis to refer to Yahweh.*

Jehovah (Jeh hoh' vuh) English transliteration of Hebrew text's current reading of divine name Yahweh. Hebrew text, however, represents scribe's efforts to prevent people from pronouncing the divine name by combining consonants of Yahweh and vowels of Hebrew word adonai ("Lord") so readers would pronounce adonai rather than risk blasphemy by improperly pronouncing divine name. See God; Lord; Yahweh.

Jehovah implies many things about God:

- * He existed before Creation
 - * He cannot cease to exist and never has not existed
 - * He is utterly faithful to His own nature
 - * He never changes
- "I AM" He is the One who will make things happen

The Bible translations show the difference in Adoni and Jehovah.

Adonai: Ruler or Master

Jehovah: So Holy it could not even be pronounced without blaspheming His name

Read the Scriptures and match them with the name or names of God used.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. God (Elohim) | _____ 3 _____ | a. Jer. 31:34 |
| 2. Lord (Adonai) | _____ 1 _____ | b. Gen. 8:1 |
| 3. LORD (Jehovah) | _____ 2 _____ | c. Jud. 6:15 |
| 4. Both Lord and LORD | _____ 4 _____ | d. Exo. 4:10 |

Compound Names: these are names describing God giving.

Genesis 22:14 *LORD - my provider: Yahweh-Jireh*

Exodus 15:26 *LORD, The Healer - (Yahweh-Rophe)*

Exodus 17:15 *LORD - my Banner - (Yahweh-Nissi)*

Leviticus 20:8 *LORD - my sanctifier (Yahweh-M'Kassesh)*

Judges 6:24 *LORD - my peace (Yahweh-Shalom)*

Psalms 23:1 *LORD, My Shepherd (Yahweh-Rohi)*

Jeremiah 23:6 *LORD - My righteousness (Yahweh-Tsidkneu)*

Ezekiel 48:35 *LORD - is there (Yahweh-Shaminah)*

The Ezekiel passage is especially promising to the Christian. Why might that be?

God Almighty

El Shaddai - one of the most powerful names in the Bible. El is the singular of Elohim. Shaddai suggests inexhaustible resource or bounty. The one to supply perfectly in what El Shaddai means.

ALMIGHTY Title of God, translating Hebrew El Shaddai. The early Greek translation introduced Almighty as one of several translations. Recent study has tended to see "The Mountain One" as the most likely original meaning. The name was particularly related to Abraham and the patriarchs (Gen. 17:1; 28:3; 35:11; 49:25). God gave Moses the name Yahweh, which to an extent replaced El Shaddai (Ex. 6:3). Job is the only book to use El Shaddai extensively, 31 times in all. Paul used Almighty once at the end of a series of Old Testament quotations to imitate Old Testament style and to underline divine power to bring His word to fulfillment. Revelation refers to God nine times as "Almighty," again giving a feeling of power to the vision of Revelation.

Names of Jesus

The names of Jesus show you the many different relationships you may have with Jesus. Consider these names when you pray. Remember, Jesus is how God wants us to know Him.

John's "I AM's"

Look up the following passages and see how Jesus describes Himself.

John 6:25-58 _____

John 8:12 _____

John 10:1-10 _____

John 10:11-18 _____

John 11:17-44 _____

John 14:5-14 _____

John 15:1-17 _____

What do all these names of Jesus describe? _____

Other Titles of Jesus

John 3:2 _____

Acts 10:42 _____

Hebrews 3:1 _____

Revelations 19:16 _____

Other Relationships to Jesus

Read John 15:12-17. Here Jesus describes the relationship of friends.

What is Jesus' work in the relationship? *To choose and to appoint: Normally we desire a strong prayer life to bear fruit. Here it is the other way around . . . Jesus enables us to bear fruit by faith that the Father will hear our prayer. see John 2:23, 14:13*

What is the friend's responsibility? _____

Hebrews 2:11

Walking in Fellowship with God

Mary's prayer example:

Read Luke 1:39-58 and notice Mary's statements about God. Look more closely at verses 47-55, the Magnificat and then list her observations of God.

verse 47: _____

verse 49: _____

verse 50: _____

verse 51: _____

verse 52: _____

verse 53: _____

verse 54: _____

As you begin your prayer time, use the prayer of Mary as guide to praise God.

Think of some things you have in common with God (a common outlook, desire). As you continue to pray, ask God to give you more things in common in the mind of Christ.

Remember the ultimate goal of prayer is fellowship with God. Knowing God and His Names bring us a long way toward Biblical intimacy with the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier.