

The Terre Haute

SPEAKER

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

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LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY

John Edwards

As prayer is offered to God in the assembly of the saints, some have not learned to pray properly. Are we being taught to pray?

TO GOD, THE FATHER.

I've heard men direct their prayers as if they were talking to Jesus. The object of prayer is God, the Father. Paul taught, *“Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light”* (Col. 2:12).

IN THE NAME OF CHRIST.

Some leave out the name of Christ when they pray. A man may lead a prayer and just say, “Amen,” without praying in Jesus' name. I heard a fellow close his prayer by saying, “In your name, Amen.” That just doesn't get it. It needs to be pointed out where Jesus said, *“that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you”* (Jn. 15:16). Christ is our mediator (1 Tim. 2:5). It is through Him that we have access unto the Father (Eph. 2:18; Jn. 14:6).

AUDIBLY AND

DISTINCTLY. Whenever we lead public prayer, we need to pray so as to be heard and understood. About the only way

you know when some men have quit praying is when those near him say, “Amen” (and seldom do we hear that anymore). Speak as if you were talking to the person furthest from you. Use a microphone, when possible. It is as Paul asked the Corinthians, *“How shall he that occupieth the room say Amen, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?”* (1 Cor. 14:16).

USE THE RIGHT

PRONOUNS. When you are leading public prayer, you are not saying a personal prayer — you are leading others in prayer. So, it is not “me” and “I”, but “we” and “our.” Do not say, “My Father”, but “our Father”. Rather than saying, “In Jesus name, I pray”, you ought to say, “In Jesus name, we pray.” *“After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.... Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil...”* (Mt. 6:9-13). And notice that Jesus didn't use 40 different adjectives in describing God! He simply said, *“Our Father which art in heaven...”*

PRAYERS APPROPRIATE

FOR THE OCCASION. I've heard some, when serving at the Lord's table, thank God for the day, pray about the weather,

pray for the sick and for about everything but the bread and the cup! When Jesus instituted the Lord's supper, He just *“gave thanks”* for the bread and the cup (Mt. 26:26-27). Some men do more preaching in their praying than praying as they quote Scripture and give the references. You don't have to pray for everything under the sun every time you pray either. If the service “goes long”, before criticizing the preacher for the length of his sermon, you might take a look at the length of some of the prayers. Even though we sing “Sweet Hour of Prayer”, prayers do not have to be long to be effective. Count the number of words in some of the prayers of the Bible (Mt. 6:9-13; 26:39). A dismissal prayer should be just that. Do you know what “dismissal” means? Allowing to leave. And some, when they lead a “dismissal” prayer, at the end of a service, don't want to let the people go!

This is offered in sincere hope that it will help to improve our public prayers.

The Book Of Revelation

with
Ron Halbrook

October 23-29

DEMONSTRATING REVERENCE

Nicolas Edwards

Reverence is defined as “to fear, revere, be afraid, to stand in awe of, respect, honour.” A big problem among brethren today is a lack of reverence! *“God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about Him”* (Ps. 89:7). God is to be feared and revered greatly! This is being lost in the church. Let’s look at some ways reverence is demonstrated.

IN HUMILITY. Reverence for God causes me to recognize His greatness and my obscurity. This attitude is expressed by some in the Bible: *“When Mephibosheth...was come unto David, he fell on his face, and did reverence”* (2 Sam. 9:6). This demonstrates respect and humility! Likewise, *“Bathsheba bowed with her face to the earth, and did reverence to the king”* (1 Ki. 1:31). How much more should we fall on our face and bow down to the *“King of kings and Lord of lords”* (1 Tim. 6:15)? Many do not seem to have this attitude today.

IN SUBJECTION. One who reverences God will be in subjection to Him!

“Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?” (Heb. 12:9). Psalm 119:1-6 shows one who respects God’s commandments keeps them and walks in them! One who is rebellious and does not subject himself to God and His law does not reverence God!

IN GIVING YOUR BEST.

The priests of Israel did not honour or fear God, the Father. They despised His name from Malachi 1:6. They did this by offering polluted bread (v. 7), the blind, the lame and the sick (v. 8). Their offerings would not even be accepted by the governor, yet they offered them to God! Today, there are many who give more to persons of the world than they do to God. When we fail to offer our best, in everything, we fail to reverence God!

IN APPEARANCE. Before Joseph came in unto Pharaoh, *“he shaved himself, and changed his raiment”* (Gen.

41:14). Evidently, he was not suitable in appearance to come before Pharaoh. When we come before God, we come before one far greater than Pharaoh! Is your appearance suitable? Before David came into the house of the Lord to worship, he *“washed, and anointed himself, and changed his apparel”* (2 Sam. 12:20). Evidently, what he was wearing was not suitable. If reverence is solely something on the inside, that you feel in the heart: why did David not go to the house of the Lord as he was? This concept is easily grasped when it comes to worldly activities, why not when it comes to the church? We have members of the church who dress up in a suit and tie for a school function, family pictures, work event, etc. They see the need to dress up for those occasions and then they dress down when they come into the house of the Lord! Shame on us, when we render some worldly activity more important and show more reverence for it than we do for God! *“Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God”* (Eccl. 5:1).

Are you demonstrating great reverence for God?

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W on Margaret DR approx. 1 mile]

Assembling Times:

Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

Come be with us!



***We Speak Where the
Bible Speaks.***

***We Are Silent Where the
Bible Is Silent.***

***We Do Bible Things in
Bible Ways.***

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