



Course Name: Communication - 5 Ps (part 1 Prayer)

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Course description:

Because effective communication is difficult, we have to work daily to improve this skill. This class focuses on our communication with God in prayer. We will discuss several areas related to the biblical subject of prayer, but focus on what we need to ask God in relationship to improving our communication as leaders.

Course Objectives: By the end of this class students will have:

- A. Identified at least four ways we communicate with God in prayer.
- B. Listed what we say in prayer and how we approach communication with God.
- C. Considered ways to improve our communication with God.

Outline of the class:

- A. Divide the class into groups of three or four. Ask each group to describe 3-4 ways we have approached God in prayer. Take about 10 minutes.
- B. After each group is finished, ask them to share their lists one at a time until everyone has used their suggestions. A few possibilities to add, if they are not mentioned, are below.
 - 1. Formal and ritualistic. We start a certain way, we close a certain way.
 - 2. ACTS: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication
 - 3. To God the Father, through Jesus the Son, aided by Holy Spirit
 - 4. Repetitious phrases: such as “guide, guard, and direct us,” “until the next appointed time,” etc. (please note there is nothing wrong with these phrases if spoken in sincerity, but if they are used thoughtlessly and simply because we’ve heard someone else say them, then we are using them repetitiously and incorrectly for prayer)
 - 5. Address using special language: Thee, Thou, Holy Word, Righteous Father, Thy, etc. (Again, if used sincerely, nothing is wrong with the words, but if it is because we feel we need a special language to talk to God, we’ve missed the point of prayer).
- C. Ask each group to list out the areas connected to our requests of God when we pray, specifically how we ask for them.

- D. Once everyone is completed, ask them to share what they have listed. A few additional suggestions, if not used, are below.
1. We ask for:
 - a. Physical needs: generally those who are sick, lost loved ones, etc.
 - b. Spiritual needs: rarely for those who are away from the Lord, and generically for those who are lost in the world that they may come to know You before it is everlastingly too late.
 2. How we ask:
 - a. We tend to ask generically and lack specificity.
 - b. If for physical health needs, we tend to say “if it is Your will.” When we use this phrase only when asking about physical health needs, what does that mean if the person does or does not get well? For example: terminally ill patient with cancer. Do we ask that God would heal them “if it is His will?” How does this use or potentially abuse change our understanding of God’s will?
 3. Are there areas lacking?
 - a. Specifics: How often do we speak very specific about what we want God to do?
 - b. Battle (Spiritual): How often do we ask God to protect us from the evil one?
 - c. Leadership: How often do we ask God to help us prepare the next generation to lead?
 - d. Communication: How often do we ask God to help us communicate better, to learn how to communicate, to create an environment where others feel comfortable to communicate anything on their heart?
- E. Consider the need for us to ask God to help us in the ways we communicate with one another and as leaders to the congregation.
1. Speak concisely, yet thoroughly.
 2. Speak with greater compassion.
 3. Speak with more enthusiasm.

Conclusion:

- A. In our lesson today, we focused on the first of 5 Ps related to communication, prayer. When we learn how to communicate with God, we take the first step to improving our communication as spiritual leaders.
- B. We must remember to consider the what and how of our speech. How we say something is just as important as what we say, if not more so.

- C. In the next lesson, we will continue our journey to improve communication by examining the second of the 5 Ps connected to communication, prepare.