

“Lord, Teach Us to Pray”

by Bob Heitzler

Sunday, June 24th, 2018

Amen, amen, amen! What a beautiful—You can be seated. What a beautiful spirit we have here, today. And, yes, we're missing a few things. But, you know what? God's still the same. God is still here with us. You know? And, I like what he said that, even though we got no words on the wall, we sing from our heart, and you know, we might forget this and that, but that's okay. You know? Because I'm not Brother Parrish, and I'm not Brother Andy; I'm Bob. Plain old Bob. And, if you spell it backwards, it's Bob. And, if it's upside down, it's Bob. And, if it's backwards, upside down, it's Bob. Plain old Bob. You know? I was named after my dad; his name is Bob. You know? So I'm thankful to be here. And, I don't plan on being long. I plan on—I've been praying that God, “Please show me what to share. Please show me what to say. Now, I don't want to go on what I want to say, and what I want to do.” I want God to move today, in the midst of us. And, I don't see any visitors, so we're all family here. You know? And, I'm thankful for that. Any visitors walk in, that would be great. You know? I'm glad we had one sister came back, Jailed; I'm glad to see her here. Not sure where she's at, but I'm glad she's here. Most likely, she's in class. But, I'm thankful for that. So, we know that the Scripture theme of the month is in Mark, nine, thirty-three through thirty-four:

Mark 9:33-34 *And he came to Capernaum: and being in the house he asked them, **What was it that ye disputed among yourselves by the way?** But they held their peace: for by the way they had disputed among themselves, who should be the greatest.*

And, I remember my sister and I would be talking nonsense in the backseat of the car, and my dad would ask the question, “What are you guys talking about?” “Nothing.” Same old same old. “Nothing.” Or, we'd be out in the yard talking, and Mom would ask, “What are you guys talking about?” “Nothing.” “Sure making a lot of noise for nothing, out there.” You know? Because, we didn't want to repeat what we were saying to Mom and Dad. And, even though Jesus knew what they were saying, and I'm pretty sure my parents knew what we were saying, you know? But, who is the greatest among them? And, we know the theme of this month is about the questions asked from the disciples. And, today's sermon is, “Lord, Teach Us How to Pray.” but, first, I want to share a story, how my mom taught me how to pray. Back in the early sixties, I lived in Stafford Springs, Connecticut, which was across the girl scout pond at Sweetheart Lake. And, we lived in a house that was light tan, and the other house across the way was red; so, we lived in both houses. But, I remember, two or three years old, mom would come into the room at night, and sit down on the bed, and we would pray. We would pray for our grandparents, We would pray for our cousins, We would pray for our uncle, We would pray for Mom and Dad, we pray for forgiveness, safe sleep through the night, we pray to wake up in the morning. And, we just prayed every night, to a point that, a couple of years past, that I was leading those prayers while my mom was sitting there. To a point where I was in a kneeling position at that time, praying, and, I recall, God quickly reminded me, two things that happened during that time that I really believe that God protected me because of those prayers. Is I fell through the ice at a pond out of sight of the house. So, my mom did not know, or my dad did not know where I was at, but I fell through the pond of ice. And, I was so thankful, of course, I'm standing here, I had to find the hole to get back out, and I rushed home, and my mom had mixed emotions. She was scared, she was afraid, she was thankful, she was in tears, but we prayed that I was okay. So, I was thankful for that prayer and the other time, I decided to drag home a poisonous snake by its tail. And, I remember, dragging the snake, and I was happy to

show my dad, “Dad, look what I got! Look what I got!” And, my dad did a dance that I had never seen before in my life. He was at home; he recognized that it was a poisonous snake. But, I didn't know. He said, “Why don't you toss that over there, and get in the house and get cleaned up.” You know? And, after that, I don't know where the snake went after that, but my dad took care of the snake after that. It was a coral snake. We had a lot of them in that area. My dad actually took a photo of it, brought it to DNR; I don't know what they were called back there in Connecticut at the time, Ken, but it was like the same—it was like Forest Rangers. But, my dad took a picture of the waterfall by the Sweetheart Lake where the Girl Scouts were at, and they spotted a huge nest of coral snakes so they shut the pond it down. You know? And, I thought I did something wrong that day, because I ran down there, “What are you doing, Dad?” “Get home!” So, I did the natural thing, I went home, went to my room, and waited. You know? I saw my dad with shotguns, and camera—the instamatic, you know, one of those type? And, then, I hear Bam! Bam! Bam! Bam! Bam! You know? And, all the snakes were gone, but, you know what? They took the picture—back then we didn't have camera phones, of course, this was the 60s—but, they put the picture on the wall and the forest ranger spotted the ones that my dad shot, but, “Did you get these over here?” that my dad didn't see. So that picture pulled in a lot more poisonous snakes. It's just that I was thankful that because of those prayers, I strongly believe that God protected me, and protected our family. And, of course, within a few short months we moved out of that area to another area of Connecticut. It was just because, us kids would just grab anything and drag it home, you know? And, play with it, you know? So I was very thankful for that.

So, but, even yesterday, I was driving on Wadsworth Road, I was approaching 41 intersection, you know how you just passed Dilley, and you go up and down a hill, to the stop sign, I was not near the light, I was maybe twenty cars back. And, I was sitting there, and I seen this van come over the hill, fast. I said, “Well, I'm about to get hit. He doesn't see me. He's not paying attention to the road.” So, okay, I just turned into the—instantly turned the car into the embankment, hoping that he'd bounce off me, and not plow me into the car in front of me. So, I'm there, and my eyes are closed, “Well, here we go. You know?” And, I hear (Bob makes the sound of brakes squealing) I open my eyes; he's next to me. No one got hit. I was thankful. We waved to each other. We were like, “You okay?” “Yeah, we're okay.” I was thanking God that that didn't happen, too. It's the prayers that we pray, protects us on the road. You know? All the time. You went down a one-way street, the wrong way. I've done that too. I wondered, “Where's all the stop signs?” You know? But, I'm thankful.

So, the Scripture thought for today is going to be in Luke, eleven, one through four. Luke, eleven, one through four:

Luke 11:1-4 *And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples. And he said unto them, **When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.***

And, I want, Brother Greg, if you could say a prayer, please.

Greg: Gracious, heavenly Father. Father, we come to you right now, Lord. In the hour where Bob is going to bring the message, Lord God, your message, Father. Father, we ask that You open our hearts to receive from You, Lord. Lord, I know from experience that this is a time when a lot of distractions like to come up, and we miss what's said, or miss something. Lord, let that not be so today, Lord God. Let us pay close attention to what You have for us today, Lord,

as we're taught to pray, Lord, teach us. Let us not leave this place the same way we came. And, we thank You for this in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Thanks, Brother Greg.

This message has four points:

1. "Why Could We Not Cast Him Out?" (Mark 9:14-29)
2. "Letting Go" (Philippians 3:4-14)
3. "The Bonus Prayer" (Acts 3 and 4)
4. "Instructions When We Pray" (Matthew 6:1-15)

Point 1: "Why Could We Not Cast Him Out?"

The disciples asked the question, "Why could not we cast him out?" We see in the Scriptures, Mark, chapter nine, verses fourteen through twenty-nine.

Mark 9:14-18 *And when he came to his disciples, he saw a great multitude about them, and the scribes questioning with them. And straightway all the people, when they beheld him, were greatly amazed, and running to him saluted him. And he asked the scribes, **What question ye with them?** And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit; And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not.*

They couldn't do it. Sometimes, when we pray, maybe the condition of our heart is not what it should be, maybe our prayers are repetitions, maybe our prayers are not sincere, but, maybe, sometimes we don't know what to pray for, to make things happen. Because, he brought him to the disciples, and they couldn't do it. Were the disciples bad people? No, they're just human like us. As we continue to read the story:

Mark 9:19-24 *He answereth him, and saith, **O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him unto me.** And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming. And he asked his father, **How long is it ago since this came unto him?** And he said, Of a child. And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us. Jesus said unto him, **If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.** And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.*

It just brings me back to prayer meetings we have here, that we're in tears when we're seeking things for God. "God, show us the way. We've done everything we possibly can. Show us the way, God. Increase our faith. God, If there's anything wrong in me, just remove it. God, if I need to repent of anything, please let me know so that I can move forward. Whatever the obstacle that's in the way, God, please move it out of the way." You know? in verse twenty-five:

Mark 9:25-26 *When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, **Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him.** And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead.*

Now, they think the man is dead. Since the spirit of God moved upon him, and the evil spirit left him, and he appears to be dead. Sometimes—the only direction this man has is up, right now. You know? And, you know what the next verse, verse twenty-seven, says?

Mark 9:27 *But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose.*

How many times in our lives, has God come along, and took us by the hand, and we arose? There's many examples in the Old Testament, where Moses was on his knees, praying, for the Children of Israel, and then God spoke, and then Moses stood up and shared what was mentioned to him. Sometimes, God answers our prayers, and sometimes the answer is no. And, sometimes the answer is, "You need that." Sometimes the answer is, "Not now, you're not ready." Sometimes the answer is, "Stay faithful." Sometimes the answer is, "I got this. Just wait." It's a faith walk for us. But, we do know that, "Teach us to pray." When we ask God to teach us to pray, it seems like all hell will break loose, and everything will come against us to cause us not to pray. But, us Christians, turn around and start praying even more. You know? Think about it, in the battles that we went through, if we were in the world today, we would have threw in the towel a long time ago. But, God has given us the strength to keep going, and keep moving forward, in prayer. Amen? Amen. So, then it says, here, in verse twenty-eight:

Mark 9:28-29 *And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out? And he said unto them, **This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.***

So, the lesson, here, that they were being taught, was, "Hey, I've got to do some more prayer and fasting to see God move." Maybe just maybe the disciples were hanging on to Jesus's coattails for a long time and thought Jesus was going to do everything, but, Jesus was, in turn, teaching them, "Hey, you've got to do this, too," Because they didn't know he was leaving in a couple of years. You know? It's going to be all on them. You know? Teaching them things that I was taught a long time ago, pray the before the storm hits. Because praying during the storm might be a little too late. But, pray before the storm hits. And, what's the storm? I don't know what the storm in everyone's life here in this room, but, if we're always praying, and praying before the storm hits, we'll be ready when it does hit. You know? It could be anything from getting rear-ended in an accident or going down a one-way street, or, our job falls through, or a bill comes in unexpected, whatever that is, pray before the storm hits. Some of us have kids in school, and your kids are exposed to a lot of different nonsense out there in the schools. And, you've got to find out, basically, how their day is when they come home. You know? To change them, and if we teach them right—I'm saying, "We," because I'm a Sunday school teacher—when they get older, they'll know the right ways. Jennifer is going to college in Massachusetts, which is a great state, I believe that's the state I was born, you know? And, it's got a great team, which I won't mention those. But, she's going out there, and her parents instilled in her the things of God, to keep her encouraged. Aaron, you went down to Florida. You were away from the nest, too. And, God kept you while you were down there, until you came back here. Keep in mind, that God has something for us. And, the other point, here, I was saying, sometimes our prayers don't seem like they go anywhere. They just bounce off the wall, come back down. But, God does hear them. He's going to answer, accordingly. Just be faithful. Bob, I prayed ten times for this." But, we heard from this pulpit, Red shared, he prayed for something that he was fighting for decades, and God gave him the victory. What happened if he threw in the towel on the sixth year? Or the fifth year? Or the seventh year? But, he kept praying until he got the victory. And, he finally got the victory, over, like, eleven years, I think he was saying, over whatever he was dealing with. And, it seems like God doesn't hear us, either. But, God does hear us. He does hear us. You know? Sometimes, I pray for catch a fish. So I can brag about it?

Or, do I really want to catch a fish? You know? I want to catch the largest Northern Pike, so that I can post it on my Facebook page, to win the bet that's going on at work. Who's going to catch the largest northern pike this year? God's kept me humble this whole year so far. Everybody else is catching Northern Pike, but not Bob. You know? You know? And, God knows that I might get a big head. He's just keeping me humble. You know? Amen? Amen. I know it's a little warm in here or I'm warm. But, everybody doing okay? All right? I'm going to take a sip of water, is that okay? I really, really respect this podium. I'm really, really thankful that the leadership trust me to stand up here, today. You know? I don't take this lightly. At all. I really don't. You know? There's a story in the Old Testament, where someone was at the altar and had a rope tied to them, and they passed away at the altar, and people were afraid to go in and yank him out, they yanked him out by the rope. Because he wasn't right with God. So, when I come up here, I want to make sure I'm right with God. Doing these things, you know?

So, the next point, now, is, "Letting Go."

Point 2: "Letting Go"

Another story. In the early 90s, I went and visited my dad. I was about 30 years old, 32 years old at the time. He said, "I've got something to show you." so he jumped in the Jeep, drove down, and he went into the woods. There's no road, just decided to drive in the woods, down to a creek, called Salmon Brook. One of our family friends, Mr. Rudy, passed away, but he was an excellent carpenter. And, he knew how to build homes, two sheds, the dog houses, Fords, to tree forts, to cabinets, to dressers, to tables; he could do anything with wood. Very, very good. And, keep in mind, this was back in the '90s; he didn't have all the fancy tools that people have today. But, his trade was carpentry. He built this covered bridge, down there. Beautiful covered bridge. It just seems odd to be in the middle of the woods with this beautiful covered bridge when you can actually jump across the creek in the middle of summer. Not in spring, but in the summer. So, we're standing on this covered bridge, and my dad starts to share with me. He says, "On this side of the river, it's coming at you, and on this side of the bridge the water's flowing away. Isn't that just like life? We've got things coming at us all the time, and, this way, we have things leaving us. So, we cast our cares in the water." He says, "We've got to let things go." And, my dad had no clue that I was dealing with a situation, because I was just visiting him from here. And, he shared that with me, how God sent my dad, to let things go, especially my past; to let things go. You know, letting go my past. And, a lot of us understand letting go our past, because, when you go to Philippians chapter three, verses four through fourteen. Philippians, three, four through fourteen:

Philippians 3:4-5 *Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee;*

He was rattling off his credentials. I did this, this, this, this, this. You know? He says:

Philippians 3:6 *Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.*

He thought what he was doing was the right thing for God. He was persecuting Christians. He thought he was doing God a service. You know? As we keep going on:

Philippians 3:7-8 *But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may [what?] win Christ,*

Now, dung is what your dog leaves on your front yard, or your neighbor's yard, you know? That's what he compared all of his knowledge, was that. He let it all go. Why? Because in verse nine he said:

Philippians 3:9-13 *And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by [what?] faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,*

A lot of us come from different religious backgrounds. We have to let that go. A lot of us come from different ways of thinking, before we met Christ. We had to let that go. When we realize the word of God, we said, "Oh." Some of us were enlightened by the Scriptures when we read it for the first time, how God just changed us overnight. Our verbiage changed; we didn't swear anymore. We didn't hang out the same places as we hung out before. God gave us a new mind, a new heart, a new sight, we saw things we never saw before. We had to let go of the past to obtain all that. When we got baptized in Jesus name, and came out clean, god wiped away all our sins, to remember no more. That's what remission means, to remember no more. He gave us a fresh start, a fresh slate. Now, what happens when we make mistakes today? We take it to God to forgive us, and, then, move forward. Satan will cause us to stay down. "Oh, you made that mistake! You can't do that no more! Ah, you messed up!" you tell Satan where he belongs, and move forward. Because Satan doesn't have us; we're not children of Satan, we're children of God. And, he's our King. You know? We're His servants. Make sense? Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen. Then, he says:

Philippians 3 14 *I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

Everybody doing okay? I've never done a full service before, in a long time, I'm used to, usually, twenty minutes. You know? They said, "Nah, you've got to do at least thirty." I said, "Oh, okay." If it's about fishing, no problem.

Point 3: "The Bonus Prayer"

But, let's go to Acts, chapter three and four. In the beginning of three, I'm just going to do an overview, so that you'll know why they prayed the way they prayed in Acts chapter four. It said, in the beginning of Acts, Peter and John are heading to the Temple. And, I need your help: So, they're on their way to the Temple, and what happens? What do they see when they're at the Temple?

Mike: a lame man sitting out there on the gate called beautiful.

He put his hands out to receive something from Peter and John, and Peter and John said, "Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have, give I unto thee." He said, "In the name of Jesus rise up and walk." This lame man was instantly healed on the spot, he stretched his legs, and started leaping and praising God on the way to the Temple. He's about forty years old, so, I don't know how long he lay there at the Temple, but he was forty something years old. All right? Imagine all the people that walked by him every day, into the Temple, knew who he was. Now he's in the midst of them, praising God. it was a Facebook moment. Everybody would be snapping pictures and posting what they saw, today. Right? But, they didn't have Facebook back then. They spread the word quickly, even to the religious people of the Elders of that time. Of the other churches. Brought them into questioning. Let's go to Acts, chapter four, now. I think it's around the beginning, he asked, "By what power, or by what name have you done this?" (Acts 4:7) And, Peter answered him, "By the name of Jesus—God did this act—the name of Jesus, the One that you crucified." (Acts 4:10) He put a jab in there. "Hey, you're the one that bumped him off." You know? And, they were strictly told not to teach, or talk in the name of Jesus (Acts 4:18). They were given instructions. Peter and John replied, "Is it best to listen to you, or listen to God? Judge ye. We can only talk about what we've seen and heard." (Acts 4:19-20) So, the power of God was moving. A miraculous healing just happened. And, the man was standing in the midst of them, whole, walking. And, if you go down to Acts chapter twenty-three, it begins, verse twenty-three. What kind of prayer do you think they were going to be praying? You know? Some people think Christians are sissies. Right? We ain't got a backbone. We don't know nothing. You know? You're just one of those church people. I've heard that a lot in the years I've been here. But, you know what? When God is faithful, and I'm faithful to God, it's amazing how those people turn around later in life and ask for prayer. Because we're solid on the faith of God. Arman, you were working as extrusion or something at Ekko. We invited—fifty-something people came out from that place. Eleven of them got baptized in Jesus name. And, here's Arman, one of the eleven. Where's the rest? I don't know. They moved on. But, he was faithful. He noticed us, he heard about the church, he heard about the negativity of the church, which caused him to look closer. You know? And, then God dealt with him one day. It's amazing. Ken Avellino, I remember us sitting over on Belvidere, no, that was Eighth Street, just sharing, when he first got saved. And, how God has so many things for us. I remember meeting the Shackelfords through their son, who was in my classroom. You know? Sarge, I remember when you came in, you were excited and you got baptized. I know you're in your seventies. Just look twenty, but I know you're in your seventies. You know? Matthew, I remember you came in as a little guy. You were little one time. Your mom brought you. I remember Vince came, many years ago, as a Navy guy, visiting. And, the family here got bigger and bigger and bigger. Todd Bostwick, I remember you coming out. Octavio, I know you're the perfect one. I always tease you about that. But, I remember people coming out. You know? Ann, I remember picking you up for church, with your son Steve, many, many moons ago. How God is built this family together. I remember, Virgie, when you came out, because Arman was super excited. You know? Ashley wants to be a—she's not here, right?—she wants the heart of Ruth. That's what she was saying one time. "I want the heart of Ruth, because I know God's got something for me to do." Mike K, I remember you came out as a teenager, to discipleship groups, years ago. I remember that. You know? Jennifer, I remember when we went fishing for the first time, and you didn't speak English, and I didn't speak Spanish, but we caught fish. We understood that. But, the family of God is growing and growing. We see it, we're spreading it here.

I remember the bonus prayer, here. It's just that, in Acts chapter four, verses twenty-three through forty-one:

Acts 4:23-29 *And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them. And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the*

sea, and all that in them is: Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things? The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ. For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done. [Verse 29] And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, [that we would be able to hide, as quickly as possible, in caves? No. That we're going to throw in the towel and quit? No. We're not going to do this no more? No. They asked for what?] that with all boldness they may speak thy word,

More boldness to speak the word.

Acts 4:30-31 *By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus. And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with [what?] boldness.*

We know the story of Paul, went three times to Jesus, to ask to remove something out of his life, a thorn in his life. He was bold about it. Did Paul get his answer? Yes, the answer was, "No. You need that to stay humble." You know? I was sitting in a hospital, Jim Martin was in an induced coma, and I just saw them inject that medicine the keeps you in an induced coma. And, Yvette would stay through the night with Jim because she wanted people to stay during the day, because she didn't want her husband to wake up without no one in the room that he didn't know. So, she's sitting there next to me, and she says, "You know what? I wish God would just show me a sign that he's going to be okay." As soon as those words came out, Jimmy just woke up. They just gave him the medicine to knock him out. He woke up, he couldn't say a word, his eyes were teary, he had a big smile on his face, Yvette ran there and, "Hi Honey, hi honey, everything's okay, okay." And, he just looked at her, and he nodded his head and he went right back into the coma. You know? Sometimes, in desperation, God just shows you these little signs, "Hey, I'm still here. I've still got this under control." You know? "I'm still around." We get those nuggets of gold, we hear about other people; it's not just for those other people, it's for all of us. Does that make sense? Amen? God has something for all of us. You know, I've been told no a lot of times from God, "No, you need to stay humble. No, you don't need the bigger fishing rod and reel. You'll be fine with what you have." You know? And, I realized that when you reach out to people, you only can use what you have. You only can use what you have. You know? We connect with people through our trades, and through our jobs, and, different things. You know? Pat Taylor shared in service; I think I said this earlier, that he couldn't be a Parrish Lee. You know? I can't be a Jay Hunemuller. I can't be a Pastor Lantis. Pastor Lantis was sharing last night, too. That guy's loud, too. But I'm not Pastor Lantis. You know? But, I'm coming down to the last point, here. It says to instructions when we pray.

Point 4: "Instructions When We Pray"

Just a moment. Everybody doing okay? Is it warm in here or is it just me? Okay. Holy Ghost. Holy Ghost is all over us. Am I nervous? Yeah. Do I want to do the right thing? Yeah. Am I thankful for my family, here? Yeah, because no one threw any eggs at me or tomatoes yet. I'm kind of happy about that. You know? Towards the end, maybe. But, Matthew, chapter six, one through fifteen. He was teaching us what not to be, when we pray.

Matthew 6:1-2 *Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.*

You know? Sometimes come we all know people, or have come across those kind of people that like to brag about everything they do for God. You know? I have them where I work at. I pray for this, I pray for that, but the next word out of their mouth is a bad word. Or the next mouth is, "I went drinking last night." You know? How can you be bragging all about that, and then say things like that? My cousin was—sang acapella songs at my grandmother's funeral, back in the '80s. And, she was dripping with sugar, being really religious, about this, she's doing all kinds of things for God, and on, and on, and on, and on, and on. And, I think that's called the repast, right? when you go to dinner afterwards? That was at my aunt's house, lo and behold, I walked into the kitchen and she was drinking vodka and soda. She hid it behind her, you know? I said, "Hey, I'm just your cousin. Don't worry about me. But, if God convicts you, that's God, not me." You know? And, I was sitting in a room where everybody was just trying to be super religious, but I knew their background. You know, they were just like, you know, my godfather was being super religious, and I'm like, "Dear God, I've got to get out of this room." So, I went to the other side of the house, where all the people were drinking and acting normal, and I walked over there, and it was God just moved among them. I didn't judge them, what they had in their hands, God does that already. You know? God does that already. I don't have to correct anything; God corrects at all. They're still my uncle's, still my aunt's still my cousins, they still see—what's important to me is that they see me not doing that. You know? Let the light shine in my life. My family come on both sides of my family are made up of preachers, and singers, and entertainers, you know? You guys know Jimmy Swaggart? You ever heard of him? That's my cousin. You know? Do you think he's teaching baptism in Jesus name? Nope. You know? You guys know Jerry Lewis? The entertainer? The singer? That's my cousin, also. You know? him and my dad used to hang out together all the time, in the military, but Jerry went on his own way. You know? Jimmy Swaggart. But, this guy here, wants to preach the truth. You know? And, I pray that one day—I am, it's amazing that I am talking to one of Jerry Lee Lewis's relatives, a lot, quite a bit, now, through Facebook. And, she sees a difference, you know? You know? Amen for that, you know? So, just be yourself. You know? Just be that candle, and not the spotlight, according to what Pastor Hubert Ulysse was saying.

Matthew 6:3-4 *But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.*

When you're praying at night time, two in the morning, God's going to reward you openly. Your light's going to shine so bright that you might get that promotion, you might stand out at work, because they see your good works. They see you doing your job. They see you not taking shortcuts. You're finishing your work. That stands out. You're not swearing, or carrying on with bad jokes, or nasty jokes, that stands out. You showing up on time to work. That stands out. They see that, you know? It said in verse five:

Matthew 6:5-8 *And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.*

Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

He's just waiting for us to ask Him. And, verse nine:

Matthew 6:9-13 *After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. 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: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.*

“Our Father, which art in Heaven” recognizing who our Father is, our Spiritual Father. Verse eleven, give us our daily needs. Give us our daily bread. Give us our daily needs that we need. And, forgive our debts, and forgive those who sin against us, and forgive our sins, too. You know? Lead us not into temptation. Even though temptation will come, that we'll have enough God in our lives to not follow that temptation, or to even go that way. You know? And, he said, “For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, amen.” Verse number fourteen:

Matthew 6:14-15 *For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*

Amen? So when he asks to teach us to pray, there's a lot to pray about. And, I could have gone on and on, even to repentance prayer, where David said, “Create in me a clean Spirit, oh Lord. renew a right Spirit in me. When you forgive me, God, I'll teach others, too.” (Psalms 51:10-13) Teach us to pray. When we ask God to teach us how to pray, or teach me how to pray, things are going to happen in our lives, that's going to cause us to pray. You know? Amen? Amen. Brother Jesse? Thank you.