

# Prayer – Relationship with God

## Declaration – Proclamation – Conversation

Matthew 6: 9 -13

- Our Father in heaven hallowed be your name
- Your kingdom come your will be done on earth as it is in heaven
- Give us today our daily bread and forgive our sins as we forgive others
- Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one

Although it doesn't look like it these are the normal dynamics of interaction  
They have personal as well as spiritual significance  
But the dynamics of this prayer do have spiritual significance

### Part 1 – Declaration

Our Father in heaven hallowed be your name

Declaration – to state emphatically or assert – to give a clear opinion  
In this case I am using this as a personal dynamic – we declare to the person

This can be very personal – I like your hair – you have done a great job

Look at the believer's prayer in Acts 4: 24 – 30

“Sovereign Lord you made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them”

This is about saying to God who we recognise Him to be

- Our Father – Romans 8: 15 & 16
- You received the spirit of sonship and by Him we cry “Abba” Father

It is about agreeing among ourselves who our God is

- Psalm 22:22
- I will declare your name to my brothers in the congregation I will praise you

It is about agreeing with heaven and creation in recognising God

- Psalm 19:1
- The heavens declare the glory of God

We also declare to God things about us

- Psalm 31: 9 My eyes grow weak with sorrow
- Luke 1:48 From now on all generations will call me blessed

Exercise –

Make a list of 5 things that you know about how good our God is  
Tell Him out loud

## Part 2 – Proclamation

“Your kingdom come your will be done on earth as it is in heaven”

Proclaim – Declare officially or publically

- This is the declaration to the world – to the spiritual realm and to each other
- It is to use truth to cut through spiritual lies

### **Proclamation is a spiritual dynamic - an weapon for spiritual warfare**

Luke 4 – Jesus quotes Isaiah 61 –

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because He has anointed me  
To preach good news to the poor  
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners  
And recovery of sight for the blind  
To release the oppressed  
To proclaim the year of the Lord's favour

2Thes 2: 1- 4

Describes the man of lawlessness setting himself up in God's temple and proclaiming himself to be God

So proclamation is the open declaration of truth to defeat overcome the evil one

James 4: 7 Submit yourselves then to God – resist the devil and he will flee from you

What did Jesus do to resist the devil when tempted in the wilderness?

Proclaimed truth

- Resist by proclaiming truth
- The most powerful truth is God given – Scripture
- Learn to proclaim truths from scripture

But not just resist – defensive – but proclaim to take ground

“Proclaim release for prisoners –proclaim the year of God's favour”

In our relationship with God we proclaim His truth and greatness

- Like children who are proud of their parent –
- But who also show that we have learned what He has taught us
- And to declare that we do not walk in our own strength

Exercise –

What keeps us silent when we should speak out?

Choose a biblical truth and proclaim it out loud

## Part 3 - Conversation

### Two parts of Conversation – Speaking and Listening

#### Speaking –

- Give us today our daily bread
- Forgive our sins as we forgive others
- Lead us not into temptation
- Deliver us from the evil one

Phil 4:6

Do not be anxious about anything but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving present your requests to God

- **Request –**
- John 14: 14 You may ask me for anything in my name and I will do it
- **Enquire –**
- Phil 3:15 And if on some point you think differently that too God will make clear to you
- **Express –**
- Psalm 42:7 Deep calls to deep

#### Listening

1 Cor 2: 10 – 13

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God that we may understand what God has freely given to us. This is what we speak not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.

Isaiah 28:23 – Listen and hear my voice pay attention and hear what I say

Be quiet – Be still – Be prepared to hear – eye contact (focus on God)

1 John 5: 14,15 – This is the confidence we have in approaching God that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us and if we know that He hears us – whatever we ask – we know that we have what we asked of Him

Rom 12: 2 – Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - His good pleasing and perfect will

**Exercise – Let's ask God in Jesus name – then take some quiet time to listen**