



BUILDING A KINGDOM CULTURE

Part 13

Building a Kingdom Culture

‘Becoming a **people** whose **beliefs** and **behaviours** are increasingly **aligned** with the **heart** of **God**...

Revealing heaven to each other and **to our world.**

*'Our Father who dwells in
Heaven, May Your holy
Name be honoured. Let Your
Kingdom come, let Your will
be done here in Elim Church
Aberystwyth as it is in
Heaven. Amen.'*

Kingdom Culture

- Kingdom
 - The domain of the King... doing things His way
- Culture
 - ‘the ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a particular people or society’ (Oxford Dictionary)
 - ‘How we do things around here’

Building a Kingdom Culture

1. Kingdom Culture
2. A People who OBEY
3. A People who COMMIT
4. A People who ARE AUTHENTIC
5. A People who BREAK BREAD TOGETHER
6. A People who GIVE WORTHY SERVICE TO THEIR KING
7. A People who OFFER THEIR LIVES
8. A People who ARE COMMITTED
9. A People who WORSHIP TOGETHER
10. A People who BLESS
11. A People who TESTIFY TO THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS
12. A People who GIVE THANKS



A People Who... PRAY

Building a Kingdom Culture 13

Thankfulness and the Will of God

‘Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.’ (1Thess 5:18)

- Part of Kingdom living (doing things His way) is **GIVING THANKS**

Prayerfulness and the Will of God

‘Pray without ceasing’ (1 Thess 5:17)

‘Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.’ (1Thess 5:18)

- Part of Kingdom living (doing things His way) is **PRAYING WITHOUT CEASING**

When to Pray

... and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying **at all times** in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints (Ephesians 6:17-18)

- Ceaselessly AND consistently

Why to Pray

- Prayer is More than a Meeting or a Discipline
- “The bottom line is, prayer is about loving God. Prayer is a relationship. It is about getting online with an almighty God and staying connected. If it becomes a duty, a formula, or just “another ‘to do’ task in my busy life”, then you’ve lost the connection. We all need to get past the idea that prayer is *another* meeting we have to attend! Going to meetings is just on small part of our prayer life. Prayer is much more about living a lifestyle of communication than that”

(Rachel Hickson, Supernatural Communication: The Privilege of Prayer, p23)

προσεύχεσθε

- **This is the word used in 1Thess 5:17, Eph 6:18 and also in Matt 6:5**
 - ‘And when you pray...’
- **Proseuchesthe**
 - Pros: towards, intimate, ‘in your face’
 - Euche: a desire, vow, prayer

How to Pray

- You may not find prayer 'easy'
- We are not all naturally intercessors
- But it is vital that we all pray

The Prayer Jesus Taught Us

- The mistake we often make is to treat ‘The Lord’s Prayer’ as if He was teaching us WHAT to pray...
- He was responding to a question asking HOW to pray
 - His answer is for us today just as it was for His disciples then
- The Prayer Jesus taught us might more accurately be called ‘The way to pray that Jesus taught us’

How to Pray

“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. (Matt 6:5-8)

How to Pray

Pray then like this:

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. (Matt 6:9-15)

Praying How Jesus Taught Us To...

- Close the door
 - How often do we read that Jesus ‘withdrew’ or went to spend time alone with the Father?
- Be careful that your prayers in public are not an opportunity for you to ‘look’ spiritual
- And don’t ‘heap up empty words’
- If our public prayers outdo our private prayers then this needs to change

Praying How Jesus Taught Us To

- Recognising who He is (Our Father)
- Worshipping Him
- Prioritising His Kingdom and His will
- Asking Him to be Your provider
- Embracing His mercy and grace
- Accepting responsibility to be gracious
- Realising the challenge we face and our need of Him to guide us through

Pray With Faith

- ‘The devil would love you to pray religious prayers, where the words sound nice, but there is no real power because the faith connection has been lost’ (Hickson, p123)
- Without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb 11:6)
- We need to keep returning to healthy perspective of who God is and allow this knowledge to put our challenges into their right place – under his feet!
- Pray with ears and eyes open to know God and to see and hear His answers

'Rhythms' of Prayer

- Create routines and habits that ensure you are constantly conscious of God your everyday world
- But also cultivate routines and habits that ensure specific time alone with Him
 - Daily and specific
- And cultivate routines and habits that ensure you are create proper space in your schedule for quality time with Him

'Rhythms' of Prayer

- Your diary can be a gauge of your values
 - Are we giving God the time that a) He deserves, and b) We need Him to have in our lives for our own sake?
- Can you create a daily rhythm of prayer in your life?
 - Such as the one that underpins Ffald-y-Brenin and what God is doing there
 - The booklet and basis for this is available at <http://www.ffald-y-brenin.org>

Patterns of Prayer

- It may help us to develop simple patterns of prayer that will stimulate and give a launch pad to our prayers
 - ACTS: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication (Hybels, p60)
 - Reminders and prompts
 - Praying in the Spirit
 - Praying in tongues

Places of Prayer

- Cultivate daily and occasional places and situations where you expect to talk to and hear from God
 - In the shower?
 - In the car?
 - Doing the dishes?
 - By the sea?
 - Preferably a time of its own

Results of Prayer

James 4:2 – ‘You do not have because you do not ask’

- “Through prayer God give us His peace. And that is one reason self-sufficient twentieth-century people fall to their knees and pour out their hearts to him. But there is another reason. People are drawn to prayer because they know that *Gods power* flows primarily through people who pray.... The power may come in the form of wisdom, an idea you desperately need and cant come up with yourself... courage... confidence or perseverance... a changed attitude... changed circumstances maybe even outright miracles”

(Bill Hybels, ‘Too Busy Not to Pray’ p10-13)

An Encouragement to Pray...

- “your Father knows what you need before you ask him.” (Matt 6:8)
- Whatever we bring before Him, He already knows what we need
- Sometimes He will respond by doing a miracle for us, sometimes He will do a miracle through us, often He will do a miracle in us
- A Kingdom people pray