

GROW IN GRACE

NEWSLETTER

Volume 45, No. 33, August 14, 2018 / Southside Baptist Church / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / **The Grow in Grace Newsletter is a WEEKLY Bible Study**, plus local church news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church; and is sent forth with the desire to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. ***"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Savior JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen."***

REALLY PRAYING *The LORD'S Prayer!*

It is much easier to merely 'say' prayers than to pray! This article presents a fellow *'praying'* the LORD'S Prayer... more accurately titled, the Model Prayer; but he is frequently being interrupted. **The words of the interruptions, all in BOLD**, are presented **AS IF Jesus Himself** is interrupting. Please understand: I do not in any sense seek to 'add' to sacred Scripture or 'put words in the mouth' of Jesus Christ!

I DO BELIEVE that **that when we are LISTENING, as we read, quote, meditate upon the Word of God— we will 'hear'** the Holy Spirit bringing Scripture and or Scripture APPLICATION to our minds for the purposes of (1) MAKING THE LOST wise unto salvation and/or (2) of training, rebuking, correcting, and instructing Christians in righteous paths! **SO, please take the words which are in BOLD in that spirit—** they are a frail attempt to show the merciful and gracious ministry of the Holy Spirit using Scripture-based truth to TRANSFORM LIVES! (2

Timothy

3:15-17)

SO, QUIET!!! A MAN IS about to start 'PRAYING' THE MODEL PRAYER:

"*Our Father who art in heaven.*" "Yes?" "Don't interrupt me. I'm praying." "**But you called Me.**" "Called you? I didn't call you. I'm praying. '*Our Father who art in heaven.*'" "**There, you did it again.**" "Did What?" "**Called on Me. You said, '*Our Father who art in heaven.*' Here I am.**" "But I didn't mean anything by it. I was, you know, just saying my prayers for the day. I always say the Lord's Prayer. It makes me feel good, kind of like getting a duty done." "**You're missing the point but, go on.**"

"*Hallowed be Thy name...*" "**Hold it! What do you mean by that?**" "By what?" "**By '*hallowed be Thy name*'?"**" "It means, it means... I don't know what it means. How should I know? It's just a part of the prayer. By the way, what does it mean?" "**It means Honored, Held Holy, and Revered.**" "Hey, that makes sense. I never thought about what 'hallowed' meant before. "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." "**Do you really mean that?**"

"Sure, why not?" "**What are you doing about it?**" "Doing? Well, nothing, I guess. I just think it would be kind of neat if you [God] got control of everything down here like you have up there." "**Speaking of control, who's controlling you?**" "Well, I go to church."

"That isn't what I asked you. What about your bad temper? You've really got a problem there, you know. And then there's the way you spend your money, all on yourself. And what about what you view on TV... not to mention your

computer... Shall I keep going?" "Hey! I'm just as good as some of the rest of those people at the church."

"I thought you were praying for MY will to be done in YOUR LIFE?" "Oh, all right. I guess I do have some hang-ups. Now that you mention it, I could probably name some others."

"I'm Listening ... go on." "I haven't thought about it very much until now, but I really would like to cut out some of those things. I would like to, you know, be really free."

"But you don't understand the source of freedom! You must come to Me and be yoked to Me. Like the publican of old, you must come crying out, 'O God, be merciful to me a sinner!'"

What good is it to be as good as the hypocrites at church, since they too are on the wrong road? Your responses to Me, reveal a heart that has never been broken, contrite, or humble before Me at the foot of the Cross!

If you would be free, you must first start there! You must understand that until you start there, you continue to abide under My just and holy wrath. Only mercy keeps you one-second longer out of an eternity in hell. Today is the day of salvation! Flee to Christ now!"

"Look, Lord, I need to finish up here. This is taking a lot longer than it usually does. 'Give us this day, our daily bread.'" **"My daily mercies and abundant good gifts, including daily bread, are that you might come to repentance! For what does it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his soul?"**

"Hey, wait a minute! Here I was doing my religious duty, and all of a sudden you break in and remind me of all my hang-ups; and scare me with warnings of hell; and call upon me to repent of running my own life. This is just too much."

"Praying can be a dangerous thing. You could wind up changed, you know. Keep praying. But if you are going to benefit from praying, you must listen to Me!

Are you listening?" (Pause)... "Well, go on." "I'm scared to." "Scared of what?" "I know what you'll say." "Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us."

"First, understand that you sin because you are a rebel, whose heart is set in enmity (hatred) against Me. (Romans 8:7)

You prove this daily by your rebellion against My holy law. Prayers for forgiveness involve looking at your sin the way I do; and turning from your sin; and turning to Christ in faith for His shed blood to be credited to your account. My Holy Spirit always starts with conviction of sin (John 16:8) AND moves to, BEHOLD THE LAMB of GOD!

This is all a gift from Me, for salvation is by grace through faith, and that not of works or of yourself, lest you should boast. (Ephesians 2:1-10) And by the way, What about Joe?"

"See? I knew it! I knew you would bring him up! Why Lord, he's told lies about me, spread stories about my family. He never paid back the debt he owes me. I've sworn to get even with him!"
"Indeed! And those words from your heart reveal that although you are religious, you are a stranger to

forgiveness! It's not much fun carrying that load of bitterness around inside, is it?"

"No. But I'll feel better as soon as I get even. Boy, have I got some plans for that neighbor. He'll wish he had never moved into this neighborhood."

"You won't feel any better. You'll feel worse. Revenge isn't sweet. Think of how unhappy you already are... and it won't get better in eternity!"

But I can change all that!"

"You can? How?" **"It's called the miracle of the new birth! I will come in and give you a new heart. I have drawn a circle of my gracious love so big as to include you and a numberless multitude of other sinners! Repent! Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ!"**

Isn't that amazing grace? You will soon be filled with wonder and awe at the reality of Me forgiving you. And one of the grand evidences of being forgiven by Me will be that you will start forgiving others, even Joe, because I have forgiven you! "

"Oh, God, you're right. You always are. I want to be right with you..."... (Pause) ...

"O God, I am full of sin... O God, I don't see how you could ever forgive me; I am not worthy to be your child. But have mercy upon me O God! I now turn from my sin and rebellion; and especially the sin of running my own life. O Jesus, thank you for dying on the Cross for such a sinner as I. O save me now, I bow to receive not only your forgiveness but also your yoke!"

"You're not through with your prayer. Go on." "Oh, thank you. 'And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.'"
"Good! I'll do that. But also remember to FLEE temptation."

"What do you mean by that?" **"Don't turn on the TV when you know work that needs to be done or the family or a neighbor needs serving or ministry. Don't watch sensuous programs. Run from pornography."**

Also, about the time you spend with your friends— if you can't influence the conversation to positive, gospel topics or edifying things, perhaps you should rethink the value of those friendships... or at times, you know that the real issue is... that you must repent of being ashamed of Me.

Another thing, your neighbors and friends shouldn't be your standard for 'keeping up'... Remember, godliness with contentment is great gain! And, don't use Me only for an escape hatch."

"I don't understand the last part." **"Sure you do. You've done it a lot of times. You get caught in a bad situation. You get into trouble and then you come running to Me, 'Lord, help me out of this mess, and I promise you I'll never do it again.' You remember some of those bargains you tried to make with Me?"**

"Yes and I'm ashamed, Lord. I really am." **"Which bargain are you remembering?"** "Well, there was the night that the wind was blowing so hard I thought the roof would go any minute and tornado warnings were out. I remember praying, "Oh God, if you spare us, I'll never skip my devotions again."

"I protected you, but you didn't keep your promise, did you?" "I'm sorry, Lord, I really am. Up until now I thought that if I just said the Lord's Prayer every day, then I could do what I liked. I didn't expect anything to happen like it did."

"Go ahead and finish your prayer." "For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen"

"Do you know what would bring Me glory?" "No, but I'd like to know. I want to please you now. I can see what a mess I've made of my life. And I can see how great it is now going to be to really be one of your true followers."

"You just answered the question." "I did?" **"Yes. The thing that brings Me glory is to have people like you truly love Me— all because I first loved you! Now that old sins are exposed and out of the way, and now that you have a new heart— well, there is no telling what I will accomplish through you."**

"Lord, I am now yoked to you; I am now clay in your hands— do with me as you will!" "AMEN!" (Original source is unknown....Greatly Edited)

Grace to one and all! James Bell /
www.southsidegallatin.org

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

MONDAYS: Jail Ministry— First and Second Monday of each month at 7:30pm. Questions? Call the church office at 615-452-5951

TUESDAYS: Come and sing every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care Nursing Home. Meet at the front door at **5:15PM.**

WEDNESDAYS: → 6:30pm— Children Ministry/activities; → 6:30pm— **Youth** Activities and Bible Study— → **6:30pm— Wednesday CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE...** (Enter via IRON STEPS; or double doors by gym)

***** LADIES BIBLE STUDY—** Next meeting scheduled for **Tuesday, August 28 @ 11:00am; Continuing in LUKE.** ENTER at the back of the church building, [*Doors **open** at 10:30am... re-locked at 11:10am*]

***** MEN: EVERY SATURDAY MORNING @ 8am:** Men's Fellowship/Bible Study! (***STUDY: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN!***) ENTER AT THE back of Church building... under the drive-thru awning. **FELLOWSHIP, Juice, coffee, Hardee's biscuits, & Donuts WAITING, starting at 7:30am!**

WATCH and SHARE the Preaching of the Word of God!
http://www.southsidegallatin.org/Listen_to_other_sermons_on_sermonaudio/

SUNDAY SERVICES: August 2018— 19, 26

Sunday School at 9:30am & Worship at 10:45am

SPECIAL NOTES:

1. August 19, LORD'S SUPPER at end of Morning Worship

HOME GROUPS, 5:00PM

2. August 26, 6:00PM... Monthly Evening Service, (Present focus: *Shepherding the Heart of a Child!*)

(Jim Elliff) "Each believer should see himself as responsible to deepen and grow the church at the expense of his time, money,

and energy. And when he does so, he has helped himself as well,
for it is his own body!”

