



Tabernacle Prayer

Prelude

Prayer is the foundation of revival in your heart and church. But many don't know how to pray more than one hour. Dr. Chou in his book, "Dr. Chou's pattern of prayer", gave us a prayer pattern, 'tabernacle prayer' which helps lots of people to pray more than an hour. *"Without praying more than one hour you can not really say that you are full of the Holy Spirit."* According to Dr. Chou.

Tabernacle

What is the pattern? It employs the tabernacle as a guideline for prayer.

Brazen Altar

- The altar represents the cross of Calvary where Jesus became a sacrifice for us. Therefore, we acknowledge His kingship in us, his forgiveness of your sins, his deliverance of us from judgement by legalism and from the power of Satan. We also thank him for granting the reconciliation between God and me

Water Basin

- The basin is the place for priests washing away dirt and filth before entering the tent. Therefore, we confess our sinful deeds and motives in heart. We recall in the past week if we have offended people and not yet aware of it. We also forgive whoever offended us. To love might be difficult, but to forgive is easy. We can start from easier one, to forgive.

Lamp Stand

The stand is the only light source in the tent, giving the priest a light for servicing inside the tent. It symbolizes the Holy Spirit in our life. For long, we talk about Him much, but little in talking to Him. Therefore, at this place, we pray to Him who is our counselor and strength, to make me a humble and gentle person, also to give me lasting excitement about our salvation.

We pray that the Holy Spirit make me a humble and gentle person. We **talk to** the Spirit instead of **talking about**. Welcome His lordship in my life. We pray to the Lord to give me excitement about Him, about my salvation, about your daily works in me, about your love and etc. The fact is that Satan trying to kill people's sentiment towards Jesus, or to give Christian's wrong conception about the sentiment towards Jesus. Therefore, we do not see much exciting feeling in a fellowship. To break such Satanic power requires the power of the Holy Spirit. "Any church or denomination without the Holy Spirit is a dead sepulchre" Chou said. And I will add, "any Christian without the Holy Spirit in is a dead Christian." I believe most of you will believe what I believe because we have the same Spirit. But how do I know if I have the **invisible** Spirit in me? The most **visible** way to tell is to see if your are **talking to**, instead of **talking about** Him.

Bread Table

We pray that the Lord will give us a heart of love towards the words of God. Also we thank God for the sake of Bible. We have Bible, but seldom thank God for the privilege of keeping a Bible. There are many places where Bible is banned. Also, we thank God because with Bible we no longer believe we are children of monkey.

At the bread table, we pray that the Lord will give us a heart of love towards the Bible and the words of God shared in a sermon or by other Christians. We have Bible, but seldom think God for the sake of owning a Bible. In some other countries owning a Bible is not an easy thing to Christians. But in both Taiwan and the Philippines, Bible is so easy to access. We might have been in grace but without giving thanks to God for the grace. The Bible is a good example of such grace. And of course, we may thank God for giving us opportunity to hear weekly sermons, too.

As for the Bible, we may pray as follows. 'O, heavenly Father, thank you for the whole Bible. With the Bible, I understand salvation is given, not earned; and Jesus is the way, the truth and life. Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to man by which we must be saved. With Genesis, I understand mankind is not children of monkey, but the Creator of the universe. With the revelation, I understand mankind has a hope and that hope will be fulfilled by our God.

Altar of Incense

At this place we sing psalms, reciting verses, recalling whatever He has done in our life and give Him our sincere thanks.

At the altar of incense, At this stop, we offer up our songs, psalms to the Lord by singing, praying, reciting scripture praising verses to the Lord, or giving praises to the Lord for what He has done for you in the past. We search through our memory bank to give Him thanks for whatever we might not have done so. We can even think of His paradoxical truth that strikes us so much.

Throne of Grace

- The last place is the ark and the throne of grace. At this place we are free to ask whatever is in our heart. I may pray for myself first, then my family, church, workplace, or community, country and then the world.

Conclusion

- The importance of prayer is known but not practiced. 'Can' t you pray with me for even one hour?' This is not only referring to apostles, but to many, many Christians. Lets us now use the above pattern to practice to pray more than one hour! Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter.(Mt.26:40)