

Worship and Praise

When we pray, we can be so quick to jump to the “what we need” section. However, God desires our praise and is worthy of it. There is no one above Him, no one equal to Him, no one who even comes close to Him. He reigns upon His throne and He alone is God. The model prayer Jesus gave us, “The Lord’s Prayer,” begins “Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.” The prayer acknowledges who God is. Why is this so important? A very elementary example is this: When you go to see a doctor, you want to know his credentials. Where did he go to school? What is his training and specialty? You want to know that he is qualified and able to do what you want and need him to do to oversee your health. You need to know that he is worthy of the title “doctor” and that you are safe to place your health care in his hands.

And in a similar way, by starting out your prayers by listing and enumerating who God is, His attributes, it praises and glorifies Him and also solidifies in your heart just who God is and that He is more than able to handle the prayers that follow. It shifts your focus from the visible to the invisible, from the burdens and hectic schedules, to the One who has all the answers and transcends time.

For those of you who are not beginning your prayer time this way, I can promise you it will add a whole new dimension to your prayer life if you will begin to do it. Worshiping and praising God is like the match that ignites the power of the Holy Spirit in your heart. It will lead you right into God’s presence.

To aid you in this area, I have compiled a list, although certainly not complete, of the attributes of God and the different names of God found in scripture. I would suggest that you have it readily available when you pray. If you can read through this list and not become pumped up with excitement, then you need that doctor I mentioned above to check your pulse!

You will come to see how beginning your prayers this way will help you when you begin to intercede for your pastor, the church, your friends and family, as it anchors you to who God is, deepens your prayers, and adds an element of fervency.

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