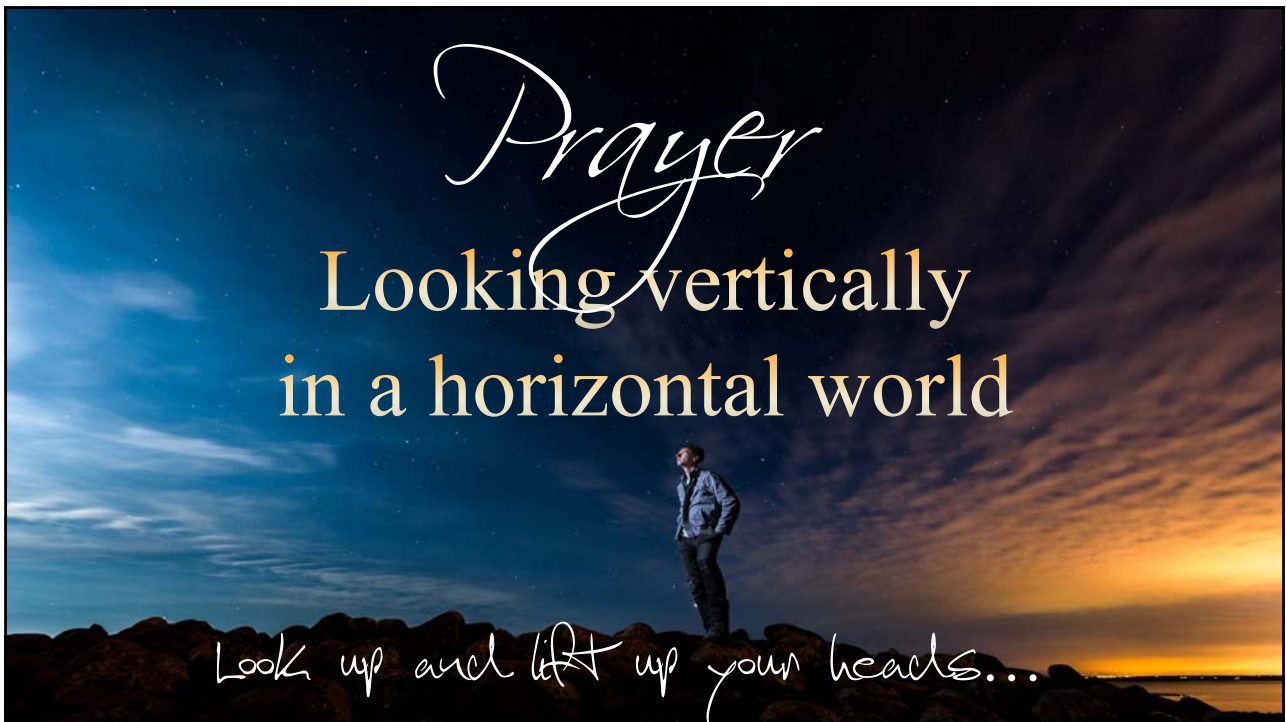




1



2

Short prayers?

Surprisingly the man who gave the longest recorded prayer, appears to make a comment about how concise we should be in our expressions...

"God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few" (Eccl. 5:2).

3

Short prayers?

Surprisingly the man who gave the longest recorded prayer, appears to make a comment about how concise we should be in our expressions...

"Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. To draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools, (an offensive prayer) for they do not know that they are doing evil. Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter anything before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few" (Eccl. 5:2).

4

Not magnificence, but humility

2Ch 6:14 O LORD God of Israel, there is no God like thee in the heaven, nor in the earth; which keepest covenant, and shewest mercy unto **thy servants**, that walk before thee with all their hearts:

v15 Thou which hast kept with **thy servant** David my father that which thou hast promised him...

v16 Now therefore, O LORD God of Israel, keep with **thy servant** David my father that which thou hast promised him...

v17 Now then, O LORD God of Israel, let thy word be verified, which thou hast spoken unto **thy servant** David.

v19 Have respect therefore to the prayer of **thy servant**, and to his supplication, O LORD my God, to hearken unto the cry and the prayer which **thy servant** prays before thee:

v20 hearken unto the prayer which **thy servant** prays toward this place.

v21 Hearken therefore unto the supplications of **thy servant**, and of thy people Israel.

5

**This prayer
is not about
how close
God is
because of
the Temple**



**... but how far
away God can
be pushed
because of
personal sin!**

6

v18 “the heaven, even the heaven of heavens cannot contain Thee”

- v21 Hear thou from thy dwelling place, even from heaven; and when thou hearest, forgive.
 v23 Then hear thou from heaven, and do, and judge thy servants...
 v25 Then hear thou from the heavens, and forgive the sin of thy people Israel
 v27 Then hear thou from heaven, and forgive the sin...
 v30 Then hear thou from heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive
 v33 Then hear thou from the heavens, even from thy dwelling place
 v35 Then hear thou from the heavens their prayer
 v39 Then hear thou from the heavens, even from thy dwelling place, their prayer...

Our Father who art in heaven Matt 6:9

7

Automatic forgiveness?

We partake of bread and wine in memorial of the death of Jesus.

The act does not of itself confer forgiveness. It is possible to “eat and drink unworthily, eating and drinking condemnation to oneself” (1Cor 11:29). The act is however, the focal point of the wonderful fellowship which our heavenly Father and His Son our Lord have extended to us.



The context of this discernment is the division of the body of Christ caused by schisms (v17–21). Our fellowship with the Father and His Son is false if we fail to see in it our fellowship **with the whole of the Lord's body**. Thankful appreciation of our Lord's sacrifice for us will inevitably lead to a realisation that he is a sacrifice **for our brethren and sisters also**. It follows that what is required of us is that **we similarly sacrifice ourselves for them**: “Love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” “Wherefore,” says Paul, **“tarry one for the other.”**

Bro Paul Cresswell Vol. 136: The Christadelphian 1999.

8

Why not bread OR wine?

Bread

- his body
- looking back
- crucifixion death
- suppression
- pain
- Hill Calvary
- darkness covered

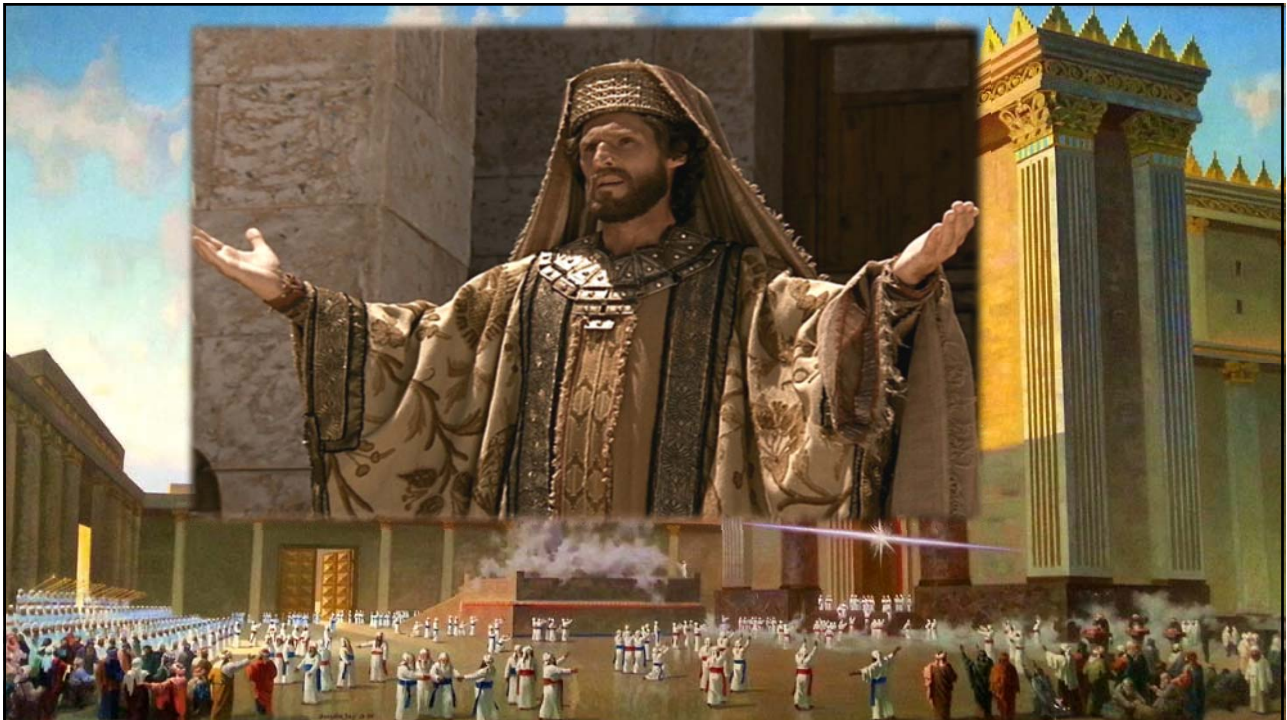
A reflection on the things we should have suppressed, crucified, controlled for the benefit of others. What did I suppress, sacrifice, or go without this week for the sake of my bro/sis/fam/eccl?

Wine

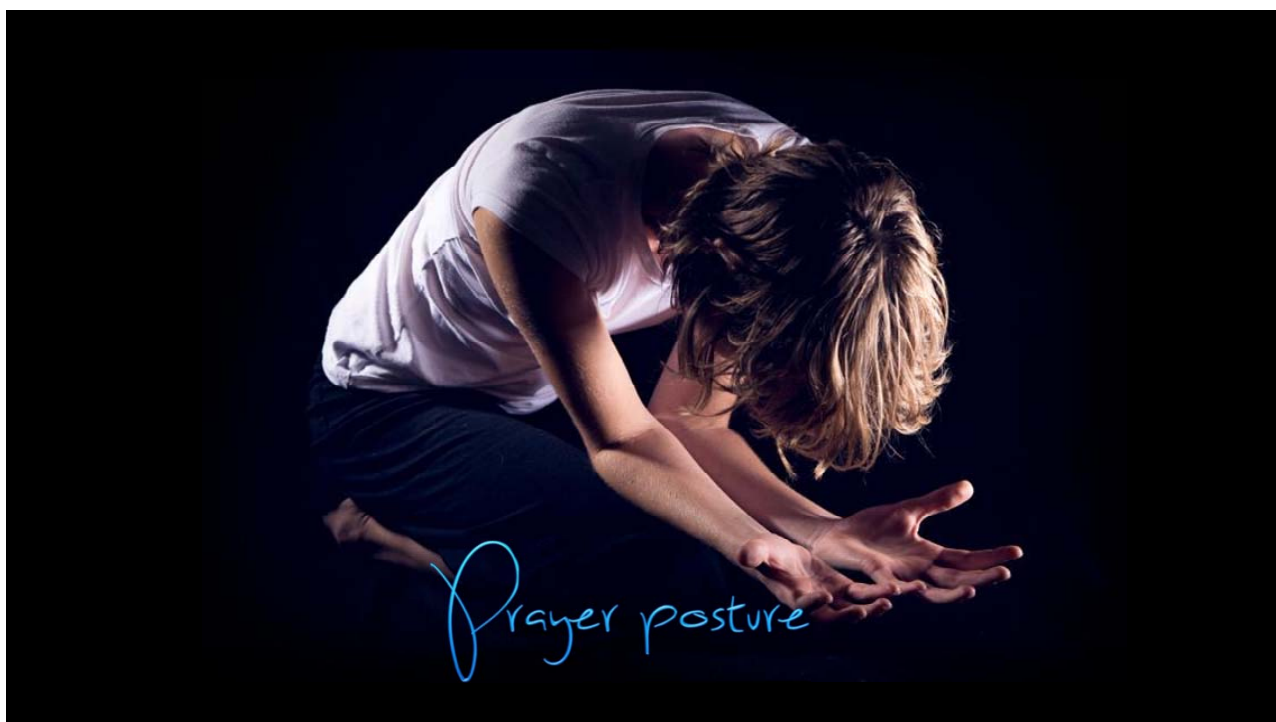
- his blood
- look forward
- immortal life
- moment triumph
- praise
- Mt Zion
- earth filled glory

A reflection on the things we should have lived, poured out, demonstrated, done for others. What did I do, perform and accomplish this week for the sake of my bro/sis/fam/eccl?

9



11



12

Ex 9:29,33 Moses said unto him, As soon as I am gone out of the city, I will spread abroad my hands unto the LORD; and the thunder shall cease... And Moses went out of the city from Pharaoh, and spread abroad his hands unto the LORD: and the thunders and hail ceased

Ex 17:12 Moses' hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.

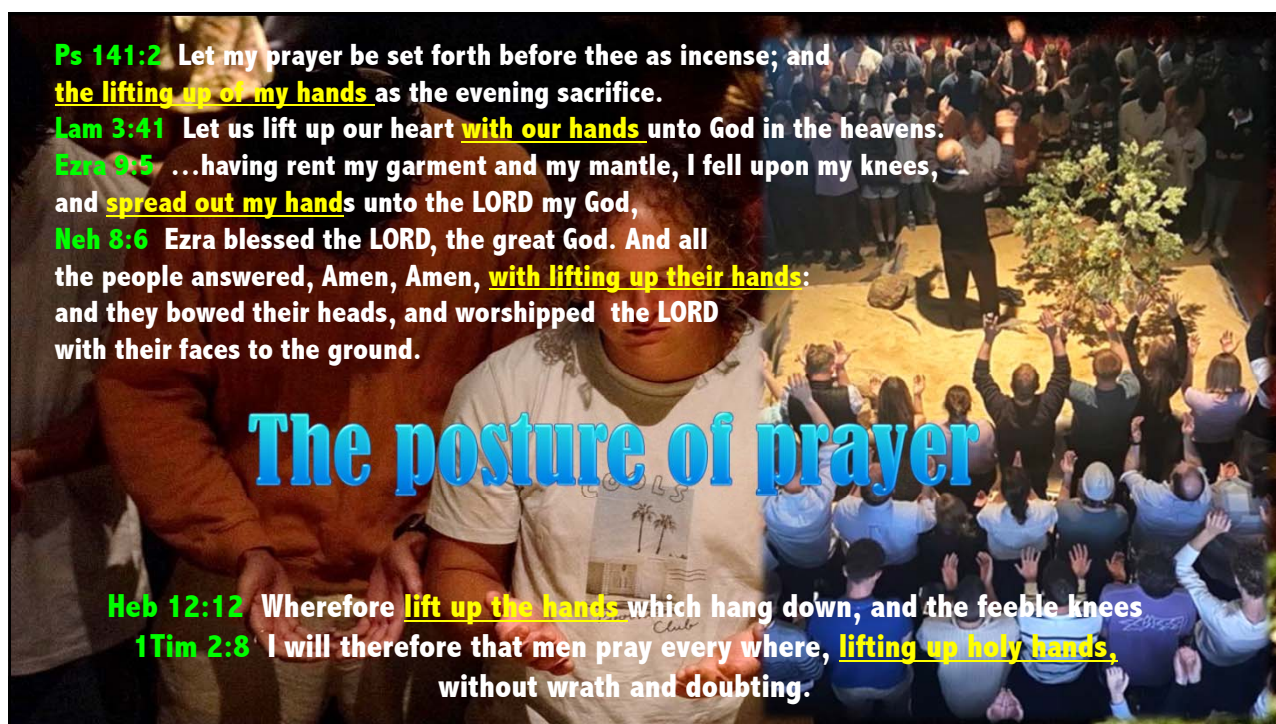
The posture of prayer

Ps 28:2 Hear the voice of my supplications, when I cry unto thee, when I lift up my hands toward thy holy oracle.

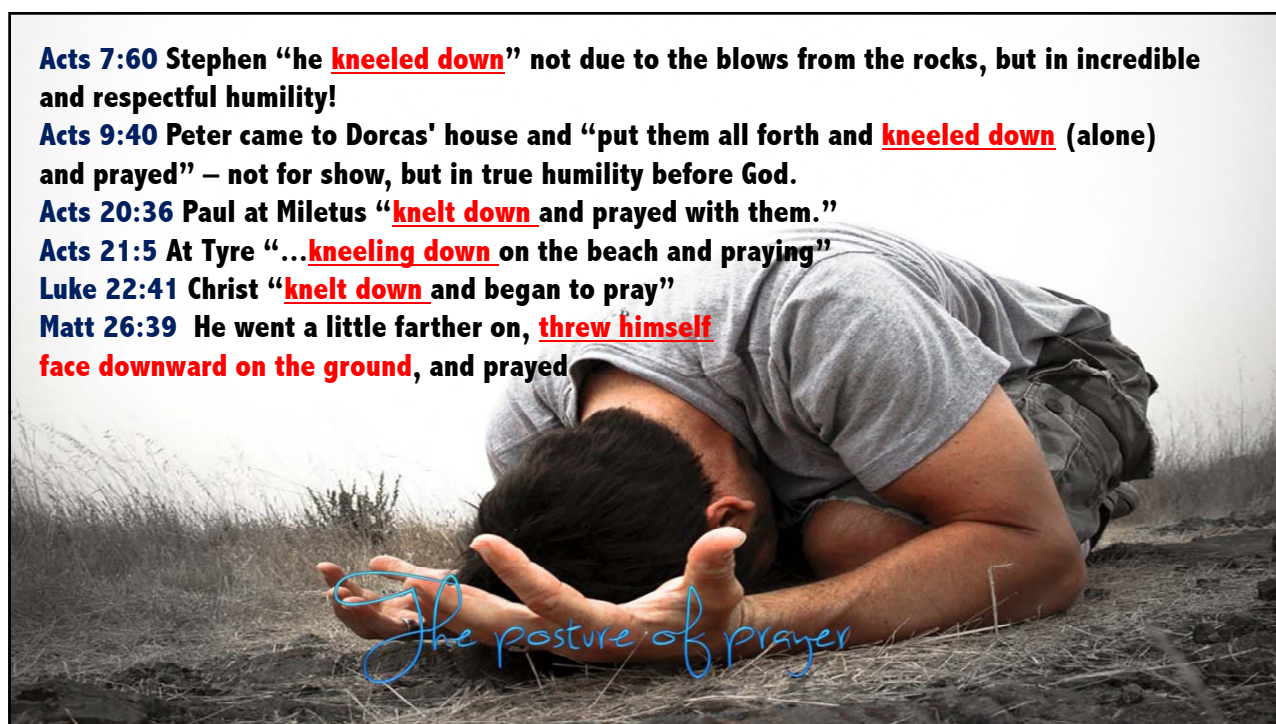
Ps 63:4 I will bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name.

Ps 134:2 Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the LORD.

13



14



15

Deut 4:39 Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the LORD he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: **there is none else.**

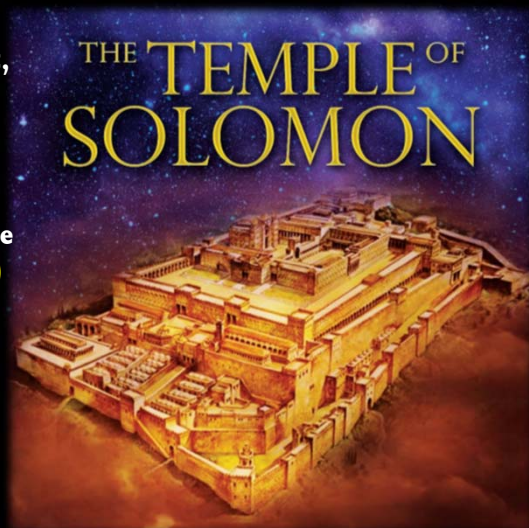
A reflection on past blessings

- v4 Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, who hath with his hands fulfilled that which he spake with his mouth to **my father David**, saying,
- v6 But I have ~~chosen Jerusalem~~, that my name might be there; and have **chosen David** to be over my people Israel.
- v7 Now it was in the **heart of David** my father to build an house for the name of the LORD God of Israel.
- v8 But the LORD said to **David my father**...
- v10 The LORD therefore hath performed his word that he hath spoken: for I am risen up in the room of **David my father**
- v15 Thou which hast kept with thy servant **David my father**
- v16 Now therefore, O LORD God of Israel, keep with thy servant **David my father** that which thou hast promised him
- v17 Now then, O LORD God of Israel, let thy word be verified, which thou hast spoken unto **thy servant David**
- v42 O LORD God, turn not away the face of thine anointed: remember the mercies of **David thy servant**.

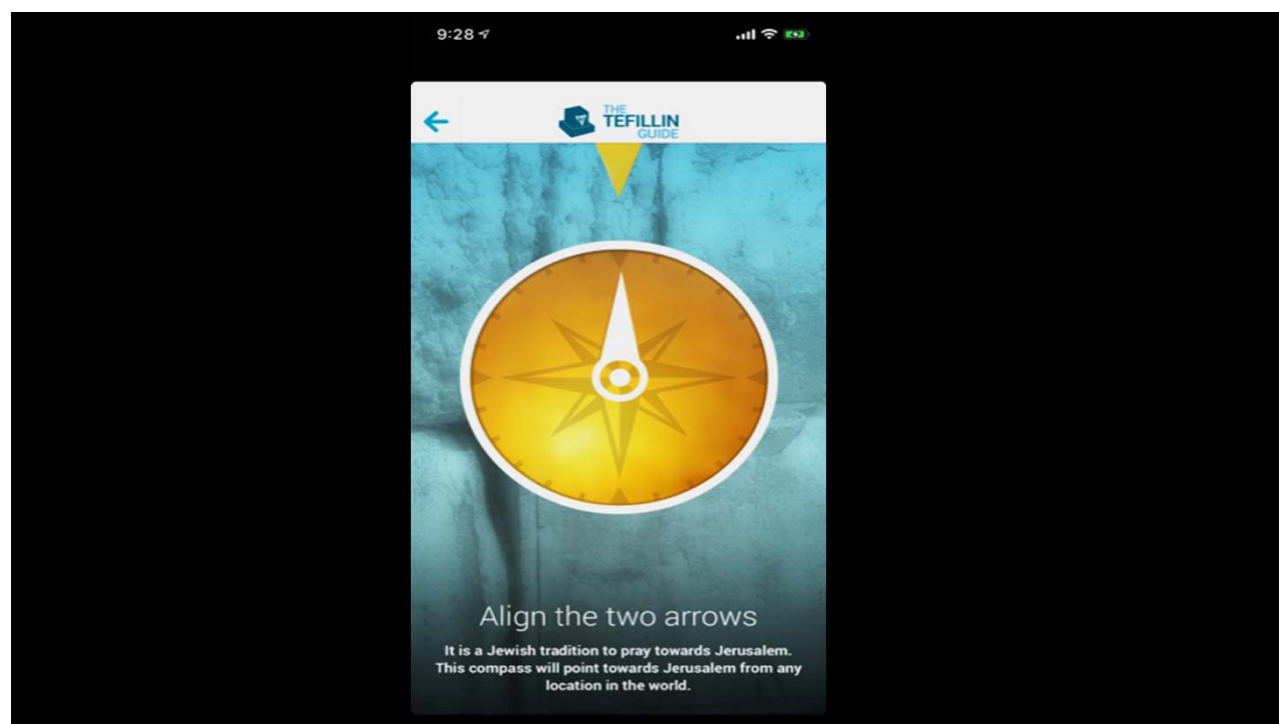


“Towards this place”

v21 Hearken therefore unto the supplications of thy servant,
... which they shall make **toward this place**:
v22 and the oath come before thine altar **in this house**;
v24 and pray and make supplication before thee
in this house (mg “towards”)
v26 yet if they pray **toward this place**, and confess thy name
v29 shall spread forth his hands **in this house (mg towards)**
v32 if they come and **pray in this house**
v34 and they pray unto thee **toward this city** which thou
hast chosen, **and the house** which I have built for thy name
v38 and **pray toward their land**, which thou gave unto their
fathers, and **toward the city** which thou hast chosen, and
toward the house which I have built for thy name



19



20

An amazing prayer because...

There is not a single comment about sacrifices
– the centre point of Temple service!

Additionally Solomon indicates that having a
Temple did not...

- 1/ Eliminate national or individual problems
- 2/ Show you were worshipping God correctly
- 3/ Guarantee a trouble free future
- 4/ Nor was it the dwelling place of God
- 5/ Nor did it make worshipping God exclusive (v32)

21

“If” - 7 Arenas of Prayer

Applicable for today

- 1/ PRAY FOR TRUE **JUSTICE** v22,23
- 2/ PRAY WHEN **DEFEATED** v24,25
- 3/ PRAY IN TIMES OF **NATURAL DISASTERS** v26,27
- 4/ PRAY IN **DISTRESS** v28-31
- 5/ PRAY FOR **STRANGERS** v32,33
- 6/ PRAY ON THE **BATTLEFIELD** v34,35
- 7/ PRAY IN **CAPTIVITY** AND CONFINEMENT v36-39

23



24

“If” - 7 Arenas of Prayer

Applicable for today

- 1/ PRAY FOR TRUE **JUSTICE** v22,23
- 2/ PRAY WHEN **DEFEATED** v24,25
- 3/ PRAY IN TIMES OF **NATURAL DISASTERS** v26,27

In the opening 3 petitions there's nothing about the Temple, but it's ALL about a potential broken relationship with God!

25

v27 “teach them the good way”

Psalm 25

- v4 Show me thy ways, O LORD: teach me thy paths.
- v5 Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation;
on thee do I wait all the day.
- v8 Good and upright is the LORD: therefore will he teach sinners in the way.
- v9 The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.
- v12 What man is he that fears the LORD? him shall he teach in the way that
he shall choose.

26

v27 “teach them the good way”

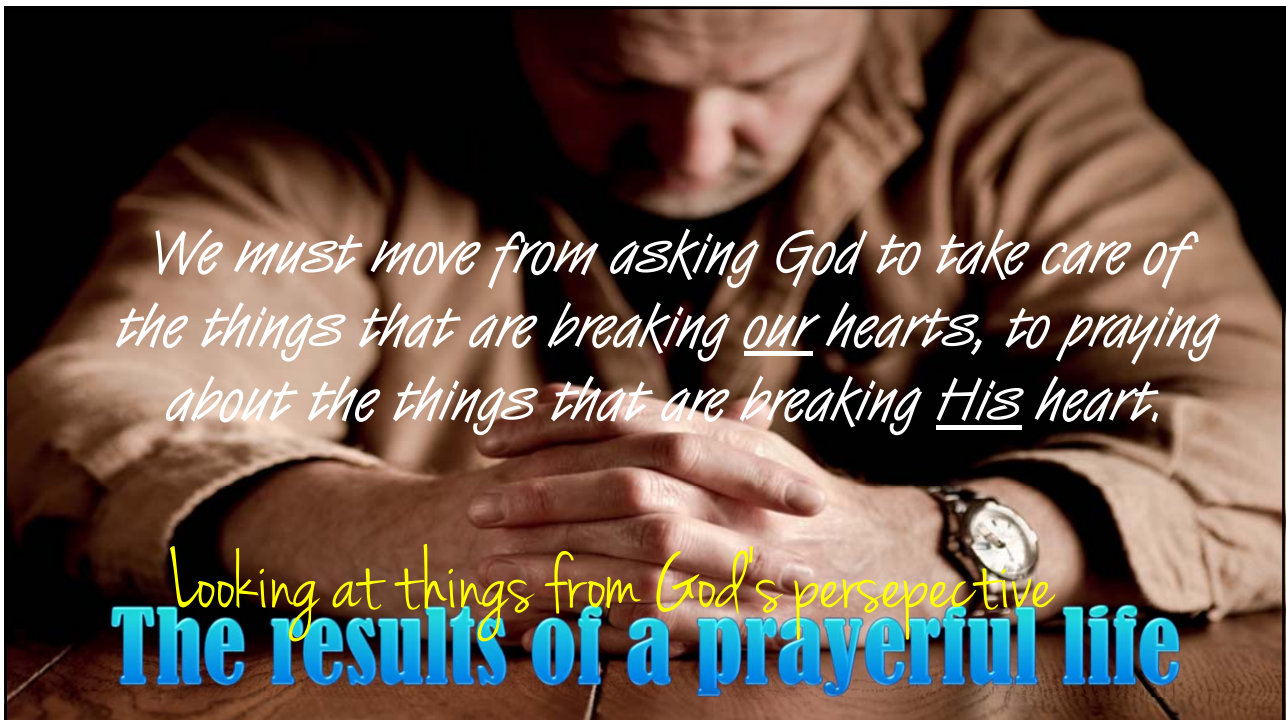
Lead me, O LORD, in thy righteousness because of mine enemies;
make thy way straight before my face. Ps 5:8

Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path. Ps 27:11

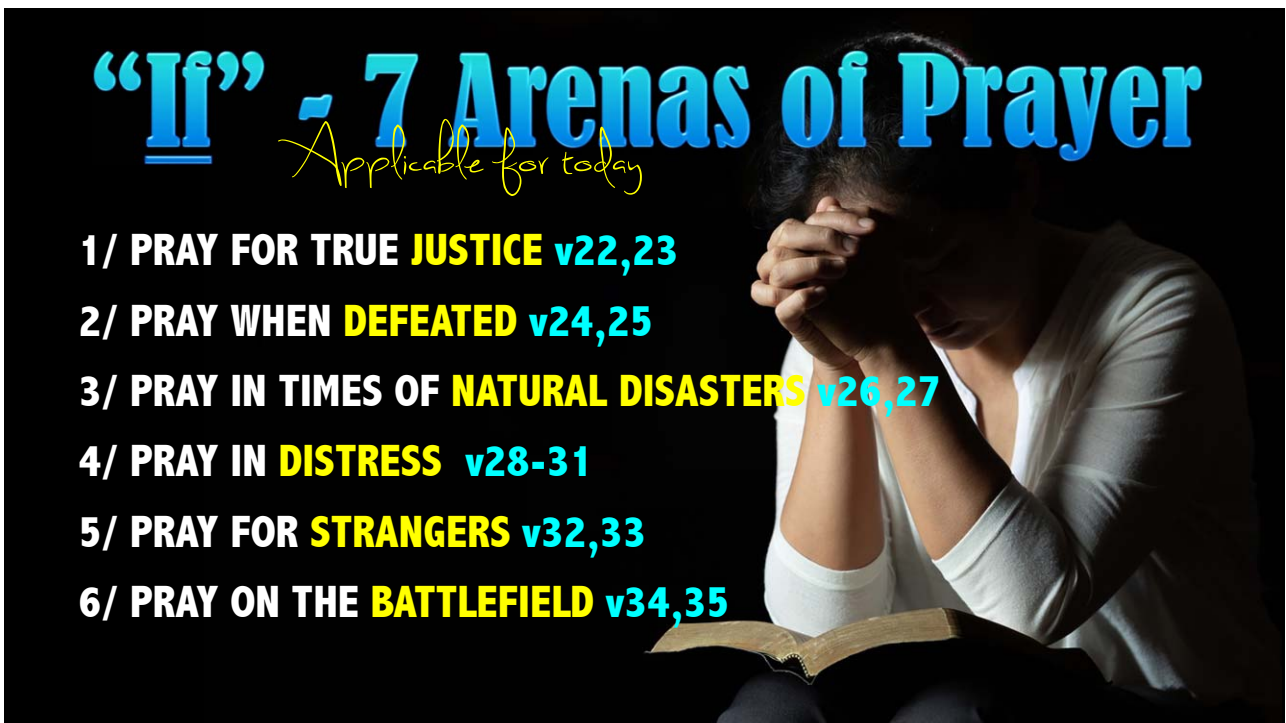
For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone. Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name. Ps 86:10-11

Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee. Ps 143:8

27



28



29

Prayer on the battlefield

2 Chron 20:12 Behold, the children of Ammon and Moab and Mt Seir... O our God, wilt thou not judge them? For we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; **neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee.** And all Judah **stood before Yahweh**, with their little ones, their wives, and their children.

We know not what to pray for as we ought Rom 8:26

30

"If" - 7 Arenas of Prayer

Applicable for today

- 1/ PRAY FOR TRUE **JUSTICE** v22,23
- 2/ PRAY WHEN **DEFEATED** v24,25
- 3/ PRAY IN TIMES OF **NATURAL DISASTERS** v26,27
- 4/ PRAY IN **DISTRESS** v28-31
- 5/ PRAY FOR **STRANGERS** v32,33
- 6/ PRAY ON THE **BATTLEFIELD** v34,35
- 7/ PRAY IN **CAPTIVITY** AND CONFINEMENT v36-39

31

God's character in the prayer

Seven Reassuring Aspects

When disputes arise between fellow believers, be our Judge.

When defeat is inevitable, be our Companion.

When natural disaster occurs, be our Comforter

When disease strikes, be our Physician.

When strangers (believing Gentiles) pray, be their Elohim

When going to battle, be our Champion.

When personal sins overtake us, be our Saviour;
forgive us and restore us to Your favour.

34

Final Praise

v41 Now therefore arise, O LORD
God, into thy resting place, thou,
and the ark of thy strength: let
thy priests, O LORD God, be
clothed with salvation, and let
thy saints rejoice in goodness.

v42 O LORD God, turn not away the
face of thine anointed: remember
the mercies of David thy servant.

For thine is the Kingdom, and the
power, and the glory *Matt 6:13*

35

So what will you do? **Points to ponder**

- ✓ Do I kneel in humility and use body posture to express myself fully to the Father who dwells in the “heaven of heavens?”
- ✓ Do I pray in a specific direction (mentally focus)?
- ✓ Have I ever had a deep, long conversation to comprehensively and intimately express all my feelings and aspirations?
- ✓ Are my expressions pre-emptive of what I may have to face in the future – or am I always retrospectively dealing with the past?
- ✓ Do I realise the personal consequences of my requests?
- ✓ Are my expressions laced with genuine humility?

Prayer is NOT an activity - it's a relationship

