

Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins? **Haggai 1:4**

Store In My Heart 2Timothy 1:5

For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.

The faith of Timothy was noteworthy to Paul. He calls it sincere and acknowledges that it is Timothy's faith. Timothy's relationship with Paul certainly was a source of strength for his faith. But Paul tells us the faith that was in evidence in the life of Timothy was something that had begun with the influence of his grandmother and mother.

What kind of faith is passing to your children? Is it strong enough to build upon? The influence of a parent, or grandparent, over children should not be taken lightly. What your children see in you will help or hinder their growth as servants of God.

Lead your family with a firm foundation of faith and they will build upon it. Give them sinking sand and they will fail.



Jump Start #1377 – Pray (part-2)

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Fourth, what follows is what the world calls the “Lord’s Prayer.” The “Our Father, who art in Heaven.” Calling this the Lord’s prayer is somewhat true, because this came from the Lord. When asked, this is what He answered with. But, it is unlikely that Jesus ever prayed this Himself. He would not have asked for the forgiveness of sins, since He was without sin. Jesus never sinned. Only a sinner needs a Savior and forgiveness. It might be better to refer to this prayer as a “Model prayer.” It’s not so much these very words, but rather the thought, the faith, the trust that is found behind those words.

You’ll notice a few things about this prayer. First, it’s short. For one who prayed all night, Jesus offers a sample prayer that contains only 37 words, five sentences. Short. A prayer doesn’t have to be long to be good. There are times that a long prayer may not be the best. There are times a short prayer may not be the best. The best prayers come from the heart, not the number of words counted in that prayer.

You’ll also notice that the words Jesus uses are simple. No one has to run to the dictionary to find the definitions. Not here. It seems that these words were natural. The crowd Jesus taught and the make up of the disciples was that of the common man. This is not to say that they were unintelligent or dumb. They were not. This prayer is using words that they would have used. Every once in a while, you might here someone using 16 cylinder words in his prayer. One must wonder if the guy talks that way all the time or if he is trying to impress someone. You’ll never impress God with big words. God knows more than you ever will and God can speak and hear every language that ever existed. So, it often comes down

to trying to impress those who are listening. Don't do that. If your natural vocabulary includes big words, that's fine. Don't use words in prayers that you don't understand. Pray in private like you pray in public. Pray in public like you pray in private.

You'll also notice in this example Jesus gives us, that our prayers praise God (Hallowed be Thy name). Prayer includes physical things (our daily bread). Prayer involves spiritual things (forgiveness of sins). Prayer asks God to help us (Lead us not into temptation). Together, there seems to be a balance here. Not all prayer is about physical things. Not all prayer is about spiritual things. Not all prayer is about praise. Not all prayer asks God to help us. Different needs. Different concerns. Praying for physical things is not wrong.

You'll notice that this prayer understands the place and nature of God. It is God who gives daily bread. It is God who forgives. It is God who leads us not into temptation. God, right there in our daily lives. God, not very far from us.

You'll also notice the use of "us" in this model. Give "us" "our" daily bread. Forgive "us" "our" sins. Lead "us" not into temptation. The "us" and "our" reminds us that we are all in the same boat. There is not one of us that could say, I don't need to say those things. There is not one of us that could conclude, you need to do that, but not me. No, you do need this. It's a "us" and "our" type of situation.

You'll also notice that this type of prayer could and should be prayed often, even daily. The bread that was prayed for was a "daily" bread. It was not the month's quota of bread. It wasn't the year's supply of bread. It's today. Tomorrow, we'll need to ask the Lord for bread again. This tells us that we'll be repeating some prayers, maybe often, maybe every day. Before the bread arrives, there were folks who baked it. Before that, there were folks that processed the grain. Before that, there were folks who harvested the grain. Before that, there was a farmer who planted the seed. In all of this duration, there was the right

amount of rain and sunshine, provided by the Lord, to grow the grain. There was a period of time between the day the seed was planted and the day the person took a bite of the bread. The same could be said of fruit. Similar things could be said about meat. There were many steps and many blessings from Heaven before the food lands on our table. God was involved all along the way. That is simply something to consider.

Teach us to pray. What a profound question. What a great step in recognizing the position of God, the trust of our hearts and the goodness of the Lord's blessings.

Pray...It just makes a person want to stop what they are doing for a moment and thank the Lord.

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We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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