

Giving God Reasons in Prayer

Psalm 119:121-128

Introduction

Throughout the Bible we see the importance of prayer. In his word God teaches us how to pray. And in Psalm 119:121-128 God teaches a truth about prayer that many people do not understand.

What does the psalmist ask God to do?

He asks God to deliver him from wicked men (121-122).

He asks God to teach him his word, which means to strengthen his faith through the word as he deals with the trial of these wicked men(124-125).

What else does he do besides bring his requests before God?

He also brings God reasons for why he should answer those requests.

You can see that in verses 121, 123-124, 125, and 126-128.

When he says that God should deliver him from these oppressive men because he has done what is just and right (121), he is not saying that he has been good enough to deserve this blessing from God. He is saying that his obedience shows that he has the genuine faith which connects him to God's mercy (through Christ) so God can give him the mercy of answering this prayer.

Are we all supposed to pray like this?

Yes, because the book of Psalms was the prayer and worship book used by all of God's people in the Old Testament.

And, because this is how Jesus taught us to pray in Luke 11:2-4.

What benefits come from giving God reasons in prayer?

When we give God reasons this strengthens our faith.

When we give God reasons this stirs God's heart.

When we give God reasons this purifies our hearts.



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

1. How often do you give God reasons when you pray? What has encouraged you to do this? Or what keeps you from doing this?
2. Does it make sense that you can pray "I have done what is just and right, therefore please answer my prayer," without saying that your goodness earns an answer to your prayer?
3. Have you ever prayed something like "I have done what is just and right, therefore please answer my prayer"? Why or why not?
4. Does it make sense that praying "I have done what is just and right, therefore please answer my prayer" means "my life displays that I have the faith which connects me to Jesus mercy through the cross, so therefore you can pour out upon me the mercy of answering this prayer"? Why or why not?
5. Do you agree that we all ought to give God not just requests but also reasons when we pray? Why or why not?
6. Do you agree with the three benefits that pastor Steve said would come when we pray this way? Which one of you experienced the most? Which one raises the most questions in your mind? Which one do you need the most?
7. As a home group, list some reasons for why God should use you to see the lost saved. Then take some time right now and pray that God will use you to save the lost, and bring God these reasons.

