

DISCUSSION GUIDE
THE WAY OF PRAYER: PART 5 - Deliverance

Text: Matthew 6:9-13

Warming Up

1. In the 20th Century the Western Church seemed obsessed with Christ's return. Today we hear almost nothing about it. Do you ever think about THE END?
2. When faced with difficulty do you ever pray the situation would change or end for the better? Share an example.

Digging In

Read Matthew 9 (or recite) 6:9-13 (The Lord's Prayer)

1. Pastor Craig suggested inserting the Aramaic phrase *Maranatha* (Come, Lord) at the end of each verse. Try it share if it makes any difference in how you experience reciting The Lord's Prayer.
2. Pastor Craig offered his own paraphrase:
Heavenly Father, You and You alone are holy. We ask that You bring the fulfillment of the ages in Your rule and reign so that Your righteous and holy will shall be done among us as it is now in the heavenlies. Give us this day what we need to endure into Your glorious future. Forgive us the debts we owe to You by not doing what is right and just, and we will forgive others the same for Jubilee is our inheritance as Your children. We have been tested and purified in the fires of affliction, we need Your deliverance from evil and the evil one.

What do you think about his paraphrase?

Read Isaiah 30:19-21; 43:10

1. The history of God's ancient people (Israel) is filled with trials, testing, and affliction. From the people's refusal to enter the Promised Land resulting in 40 years of wilderness wandering, through the Babylonian captivity, and now Roman occupation the people of God have endured much. If you were a 1st Century Jew listening to Jesus what would come to mind when he said, "Pray like this: ...Lead as not into further testing..."?
2. Revelation 21:7 "[The one] who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be [their] God and [they] will be my [child]? Testing and trial were the experience of the early church. If you were a Christian at the end of the 1st Century, what might you be praying for when Roman persecution was growing?
3. How should we be praying today when it comes to testing and trials you experience? (There is no wrong answer!)

Read Psalm 71:4; 140:1, Revelation 20:7-10

1. Pastor Craig stated that evil is real and not the absence of what is good. How did God's ancient people (Israel) experience evil? How did the ancient church experience evil? Who was responsible for the evil they endured?
2. How does evil manifest itself today? Should we be naming individuals as evil?
3. How do we (you) experience God's deliverance from evil?

Sending Out

Praying for God to bring the fulfillment of all things was central to the Apostolic Church's worship. Perhaps this should be part of worship and prayer together.

Closing

Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus! Pray that God would deliver those who are in testing and trial from the evil they are enduring.

Close in Prayer