

The Happy Forgetter

Prayer Requests

Share with us your prayer requests and our prayer ministry will lift them up in prayer.

Name (*Optional)

Prayer

Contact Info (*Optional: Email, phone, etc)

Online Giving

You may give to the church online through this portal.

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Matthew 5:33-34

Matthew 5:33-34 NKJV

“Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.’ But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God’s throne;

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The True Motive in Service

This will take you directly to the chapter from Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing titled, "The True Motive in Service". This is chapter 4, page 79 if you wish to look it up directly.

Visit Site ^[3]

Facebook and Happiness

Here's the link to the happiness study.

Visit Site ^[4]

Matthew 5 and 6: Outward vs Inward holiness

In Matthew 5 Jesus deals with God's requirements. In chapter 6, with motivation for honoring those requirements.

Add Your Notes ^[5]

Better Righteousness

Matthew 5:20 NKJV

For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

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CAUTION

Matthew 6 begins with a caution, . . . lest our righteousness be done for the purpose of gaining attention, i.e for selfish reasons.

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Matthew 6:1

Matthew 6:1 NKJV

“Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

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Matthew 6:1, NASB

Matthew 6:1 NASB

"Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.

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Three areas of motivation

Jesus addressed three areas of motivation: Matthew 6:2, 5, 16 Our motivation for service . . . relationship with God . . . self-denial

Add Your Notes ^[10]

God's interest

God is interested in authenticity far more than appearance. "We are not to think of reward, but of service; yet kindness shown in this spirit will not fail of its recompense. "Thy Father which seeth in secret Himself shall reward thee openly." While it is true that God Himself is the great Reward, that embraces every other, the soul receives and enjoys Him only as it becomes assimilated to Him in character. Only like can appreciate like. It is as we give ourselves to God for the service of humanity that He gives Himself to us." Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, 81.

Add Your Notes ^[11]

Matthew 6:2

Matthew 6:2 NKJV

Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

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Matthew 6:5

Matthew 6:5 NKJV

“And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

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Matthew 6:16

Matthew 6:16 NKJV

“Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

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Motivation Counts

Only motivation from a sincere heart is of value to God. Further, it's not about location or activity, but about the motivation of the heart. All we do should be for the interest of God's glory. Isaiah 58 ties all three concepts together: Acts of service, prayer and fasting.

[Add Your Notes](#) [15]

Isaiah 58:1, 2

Isaiah 58:1-2 NKJV

“Cry aloud, spare not; Lift up your voice like a trumpet; Tell My people their transgression, And the house of Jacob their sins. Yet they seek Me daily, And delight to know My ways, As a nation that did righteousness, And did not forsake the ordinance of their God. They ask of Me the ordinances of justice; They take delight in approaching God.

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Matthew 5:16, 44

Matthew 5:16 NKJV

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

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Giving / Charity / Acts of Service

For our giving to be of any value, it must be done with an eye to God’s glory / honor and out of real kindness of heart.

[Add Your Notes](#) ^[18]

Thinking about Prayer and Fasting

Prayer and fasting find their purpose in providing the context for heart-change, i.e. motivational change.

[Add Your Notes](#) ^[19]

Matthew 6:5-6

Matthew 6:5-6 NKJV

“And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

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Isaiah 58:1-4

Isaiah 58:1-4 NKJV

“Cry aloud, spare not; Lift up your voice like a trumpet; Tell My people their transgression, And the house of Jacob their sins. Yet they seek Me daily, And delight to know My ways, As a nation that did righteousness, And did not forsake the ordinance of their God. They ask of Me the ordinances of justice; They take delight in approaching God. ‘Why have we fasted,’ they say, ‘and You have not seen? Why have we afflicted our souls, and You take no notice?’ “In fact, in the day of your fast you find pleasure, And exploit all your laborers. Indeed you fast for strife and debate, And to strike with the fist of wickedness. You will not fast as you do this day, To make your voice heard on high.

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Matthew 5:3-7

Matthew 5:3-7 NKJV

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.

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Prayer

Prayer is for the purpose of experiencing God’s transformational work in our lives . . . and nothing more. Righteousness in all it's dimensions flow out of this connection. Prayer is coming into the secret place with God and working through the thoughts in our hearts with Him. He alone need be aware of our inmost desires and struggles . . . and the outcome will be publicly noticed. "In the secret place of prayer, where no eye but God’s can see, no ear but His can hear, we may pour out our most hidden desires and longings to the Father of infinite pity, and in the hush and silence of the soul that voice which never fails to answer the cry of human need will speak to our hearts." Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, 84.

[Add Your Notes](#) [23]

Fasted for personal gain

Isaiah 58:3 NKJV

‘Why have we fasted,’ they say, ‘and You have not seen? Why have we afflicted our souls, and You take no notice?’ “In fact, in the day of your fast you find pleasure, And exploit all your laborers.

Fasting

Fasting is, as prayer, focused on an end-point, not an end-point in itself . . . it is, then, for the purpose of effective service, i.e. Christ-likeness. The point is not the activity—but the impact on one’s relationship with God. Should we fast? ABSOLUTELY, but the purpose of the fast MUST NOT be the fast, but a deepening of our relationship with God. PERIOD. Fasting for fasting’s sake is a dead-end road. "The object of the fast which God calls upon us to keep is not to afflict the body for the sin of the soul, but to aid us in perceiving the grievous character of sin, in humbling the heart before God and receiving His pardoning grace. His command to Israel was, “Rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God.” Joel 2:13. "It will avail nothing for us to do penance or to flatter ourselves that by our own works we shall merit or purchase an inheritance among the saints. When the question was asked Christ, “What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?” He answered, “This is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent.” John 6:28, 29. Repentance is turning from self to Christ; and when we receive Christ so that through faith He can live His life in us, good works will be manifest." Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, 87.

Add Your Notes [25]

Rewarded

Isaiah 58:8-12 NKJV

Then your light shall break forth like the morning, Your healing shall spring forth speedily, And your righteousness shall go before you; The glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; You shall cry, and He will say, ‘Here I am.’ “If you take away the yoke from your midst,

The pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, If you extend your soul to the hungry And satisfy the afflicted soul, Then your light shall dawn in the darkness, And your darkness shall be as the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, And satisfy your soul in drought, And strengthen your bones; You shall be like a watered garden, And like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail. Those from among you Shall build the old waste places; You shall raise up the foundations of many generations; And you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach, The Restorer of Streets to Dwell In.

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1. <https://www.adventistgiving.org/login/Login.aspx>
2. <http://www.a.youversion.com/bible/nkjv/Matt.5.33-34>
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