

First Baptist Church Smiths Falls

February 10, 2019 - Communion Sunday

Scripture: Psalm 103:1-8 New International Version (NIV)

1 Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. 2 Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits — 3 who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, 4 who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, 5 who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. 6 The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed. 7 He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel: 8 The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

Congregational Prayer: "Our Father"

Our Father, Which Art In Heaven, Hallowed Be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom Come. Thy Will Be Done, On Earth As It Is In Heaven. Give Us This Day, Our Daily Bread, And Forgive Us Our Trespases, As We Forgive Those Who Trespass Against Us. And Lead Us Not Into Temptation, But Deliver Us From Evil. For Thine Is The Kingdom, The Power And The Glory. Forever And Ever. Amen

Message: "Prayer 6: Types of Prayer: 2"

Introduction:

- Let me tell you the story of Henry Smith. In 1978, a young seminary graduate was struggling to find work. Henry was also struggling with the reality of a progressive eye condition that would eventually leave him legally blind. Despite those hardships, Henry found hope in 2 Corinthians 8:9 which says (NIV): *"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you, through his poverty, might become rich."* Using his life experiences, Henry

Smith wrote the words to the song, "Give Thanks," including:

"And now let the weak say, 'I am strong;' Let the poor say, 'I am rich' because of what the Lord has done. (Right from 2 Corinthians 8:9)" Years later, a young worship leader named Don Moen would record Henry's song, helping to carry it around the world, and the song "Give Thanks" quickly became one of the most beloved choruses of our time. Today, you can hum "Give Thanks" at almost any Church in the world, no matter the country or the language, and someone will recognize this simple song of thanksgiving and petition and sing along with you.

- I asked Marjorie Evoy to add this song today because we are about to turn to the last two of our four types of prayer that we shall add to last week's Adoration and Confession: Thanksgiving and Supplication.

.Part 1: Thanksgiving:

- After adoration and confession, the third type of prayer is Thanksgiving. A parent longs for their child to be grateful for all that they're doing for them. I love when my kids just call or send a

note, or want to come and visit. I love when my children choose to spend time with me over time with anyone or anything else. And when my children show gratitude, when my children appreciate the efforts I put out for them, that makes me want to be more involved with them, and to do more for them. Similarly, our Heavenly Father is longing for us to be grateful for all that He does for us.

- We need to take 8-12 breaths every minute, every day of our lives 24/7 - keeping a fresh supply of oxygen going to our lungs, and removing built up gases like carbon monoxide as we exhale. This keeps us alive, but do you even think about it? And how many of you are aware of your own heart beating today as you sit here? 60-80 beats per minute, all day long, that we take for granted just to keep alive. Plus kidneys to filter out impurities, and cells exchanging nourishment, and skin to hold it together - so much is happening with your hormones, with your organs, and this we take for granted all day long.
- So too, we have the Lord, Jesus Christ who is amazing, powerful, wonderful, and cares for us, and watches over our every step, and

He is keeping us alive every day. And sometimes we can take the Lord for granted. Our Saviour is pleased when we are thankful. Jesus wants us to be grateful for what He's done for us.

- What has Jesus done for us? He died in your place. He took your stinky pile of sins and paid for them in full. He erased your sins, taking them from you as far as the east is from the west (Psalm 103:12). Gone. Paid for. Removed.
- How could we not thank Him for the life He gives us? We need to learn to be thankful toward a loving, caring, giving God of mercy, hope, truth and life.
- It says in Psalm 100:1 says: *“Enter into his gates with thanksgiving and enter his courts with praise...”* Hebrews 13:15 says: *“Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that gives thanks to his name.”* Psalm 92 begins with: *“It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; 2 to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night...”* It is good to give thanks to the Lord. It is good to be

grateful to our loving God. It is good to bring a sacrifice of thanksgiving to Jesus Christ, the Saviour who loves and protects us every day, all day long.

- The Lord wants us to take time and extend to Him gratefulness for what He's done for us. In Ephesians 5:19b-20 says: *“Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, 20 always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*
- How often should we be thankful to God? It says in 1Thessalonians 5:18 that we are to thank God for all the time: *“...give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”* Why? We should be thankful if for no other reason than the truth that God is sovereign. Our God reigns on high. He is on the throne. He is completely in control of all things, allowing us to sin, and to come back to Him, and awaiting us to love Him. Even during the times when we are going astray, He is good. In the midst of the rough times in our lives, our God is working out all things for His glory, for His honour, for the

betterment of His Holy kingdom. So whether you are working or at school, whether you are young or old, whether you are weak or strong, whether you are cruising through life, or barely getting by, whether temptation is winning or losing, if you are healthy or sick, if you have or if you don't, remember that (Romans 8:28) *“...we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”* The Lord is bringing about good in your life. He is conforming you into the image of His only Begotten Son. And all we have to do, in all circumstances, in all situations, is to give thanks to Him. We need to learn to look beyond our circumstances, and set our eyes on heaven and be grateful.

- And when we are grateful, when we give thanks to God in everything, good things will happen. Thanksgiving transforms us. Thanksgiving calms our complaints. Thanksgiving to God brings us joy and contentment. Thanksgiving transforms our relationship with God because we grow more intimate in our faith toward Him.
- Colossians 3:15 says: *“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,*

since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.” Philippians 4:6 says that we are to make our request to God in a special way. How? With thanksgiving! God has repeated in scripture that we are to be thankful and show it.

- So let me encourage you to add three different things to your Thanksgiving list: 1. the first one is to thank God for his eternal blessings. Think about this: if all God ever did was deliver us from hell to to save us from eternally being separated from Him, that alone is enough for us to thank God for all eternity. Thank You, Lord for saving me!
- Secondly we should be grateful for people in our lives. The Apostle Paul started off many of his books by thanking God for His friends in Christ (see Romans 1 & 4; Philippians 1:3). “Thanks for my family, my Church, my work mates, my school friends, my neighbours, my extended family.
- Third: Thank God for His guidance in your life, for His rescuing and for His day-to-day leadership. “Thank You, God for what you have done and how you answer prayer.” “Thank you Lord for

being the power that you give to me when I am powerless. Thank You, Lord, for fixing my situation, and forcing me to turn my attention on You as You guide me in my life.” It is good to give thanks unto the Lord.

Part 2: The 4th type of Prayer is Supplication.

- Who can remember the first three prayer types: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and now supplication. What is supplication? Supplication is asking God to supply your needs. Coming to God in prayer is not so much supplying your wants, but supplying your needs. We come to a Holy God of love and power and we ask God to provide for us. God is our provider, the Jehovah Jireh, The Lord Our Provider, our providence.
- When we ask in the name of Jesus, when we ask according to God’s will, when we ask in faith, God will provide: Jesus said so in Mark 11:24: *“Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”* Again in John 16:24 Jesus said: *“Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will*

be complete.”

- On the DVD Bible Study Series entitled “Battle Plan for Prayer,” Alex Kendrick tells his favourite story from during the production of the movie “Fireproof.” He said that there is a scene involving a train coming meeting a wrecked car on the tracks with two people trapped inside. Their initial plan involved a pulley system to pull the wrecked car off the tracks, but it wasn't working. So they began praying God as they are trying to film this scene, “Lord, would You supply a forklift.” In the closest house to where they were shooting an elderly gentleman came to them and said: “So, what you really need is a forklift.” And to their amazement he walked around to the back of his house and he drove out in a forklift. Only God could provide like that. God can supply all of your needs.
- Psalm 84:11 (NIV) says: *“For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favour and honour; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.”* No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly. Romans 8:32

(NIV) says: *“He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?”*

- Remember this: In every situation God can understand the future, and He knows the present, and He knows the past, and He knows how your life should be heading, and He knows how you should be living, and He knows how to keep you on the straight and narrow path that leads to life. Philippians 4:19 (NKJV) says: *“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”*

Conclusion:

- So we talked about four types of prayer: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication. Together they form the acronym A.C.T.S. When you feel that you cannot pray; when you are asked to prayer in a crowd, remember the word ACTS, and give God adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication.
- Today, would you ask God to direct your prayer life? Today, would you pray to the living God who loves to hear your words of

praise and adoration, whom you can come to with clean lips and
clean heart having come to Him with confession, and with a heart
of thanksgiving, and then ask God to provide for all your needs?