

Two Ears One Mouth

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic

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God gave us two ears for us to listen to His words clearly and gave us a mouth to utter our prayers. Let us explore ways by which we believers sometimes approach God in prayer inappropriately, leading us to defeat.

Wrong Ways of Prayer:

1. Prayerlessness

1.1 Prayers meant for the ears of men are inappropriate

- "But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you" (Mt. 6:6).

1.2 Prayer is not a place where we correct others.

1.3 Prayer is not a place where we demonstrate our spirituality.

2. Prayers full of "spiritual" filler

2.1 "This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me" (Mt. 15:8).

- We should not be repetitive in prayer.
- God wants the sincerity of our hearts.

3. Self-Promotional Prayers

3.1 The Pharisee exalted himself in prayer, while looking down at cheaters, sinners, adulterers and the tax collector. On the other hand, the tax collector stood at a distance and repented of his sins. (Lk. 18:9-14)

4. Prayer which seeks to manipulate God

4.1 Jonah despised Nineveh so much that he yearned for it to experience God's full wrath. (Jonah 4:6)

5. Selfish Prayer

5.1 "Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee approached him with her sons and did him homage, wishing to ask him for something. He said to her, 'What do you

wish?' She answered him, 'Command that these two sons of mine sit, one at your right and the other at your left, in your kingdom.'²² Jesus said in reply, 'You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I am going to drink?' They said to him, 'We can.' He replied, 'My cup you will indeed drink, but to sit at my right and at my left is not mine to give but is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.' When the ten heard this, they became indignant at the two brothers" (Mt.20:20-24).

6. Praying Amiss

6.1 Asking in prayer with the wrong motives leads to communication disaster.

7. Open-Ended Prayer

7.1 "Amen, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it shall be done for him" (Mk. 11:23).

7.2 "Be sober and vigilant. Your opponent the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour" (1 Pt. 5:8).

We must reflect deeply on how we pray and ask the Holy Spirit to lead us always in our prayer.

Reflection: What are you asking God for in prayer that the Lord answered differently?

Examine your prayer life and the quality of your prayers carefully.

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