



1/13/2008

## Where to Begin: Adopting a Model for Prayer.

### INTRODUCTION

**R**uth Wakefield, who was the owner of the Toll House Inn in Massachusetts, is credited with inventing the chocolate chip cookie. The story goes that one day in 1930 she cut a Nestle's Semisweet Yellow Label Chocolate bar into small chunks and added it to her butter cookie dough. The cookies were an instant hit with her customers and word of their popularity reached the Nestle company. Nestle must have realized that adding small chunks of their chocolate bar to cookie dough would appeal to the mass market because by 1939 Nestle was selling chocolate morsels (or chips). What a brilliant marketing plan it turned out to be when Nestle packaged the chips in a Yellow bag and then bought the rights to the Toll House name and Ruth Wakefield's chocolate chip cookie recipe. They called her recipe "The Famous Toll House Cookie" and printed it on the back of the Yellow bag of chocolate morsels.

But when you look up a recipe on the internet you find all sorts of variations on chocolate chip cookie recipes. For instance:

Sugar	Br Sugar	Butter	Eggs	Vanilla	All Pur. Flour	Baking Soda	Salt	Cho. Chips
¾ cup	¾ cup	1 cup	2	1 ½ tsp	2 ¼ cups	1 tsp	½ tsp	1 ½ Cups Semi S.
¾ cup	¾ cup	1 cup	2	2 Tsp. Mexican Van.	2 ¼ cups	1 tsp	1 tsp	2 cups M. Cho.
¾ cup	¾ cup	1 cup	1	-----	2 ¼ cups	1 tsp	½ tsp	2 cups Semi S.

Options: Add mint flavoring, add shopped walnuts, add pecans.

Most bakers through trial and error adopt their own favorite recipes. The goal is a satisfying chocolate chip cookie. They use the recipe that works for them and that they have confidence in.

T.S. The development of a prayer life is much the same. We could look a numerous methods all with similarities, but each with distinctives that differentiate them from one another. No one method is ideal for everyone. The goal is to adopt a method that works for you, gives you confidence and leads to a satisfying result.



## **ADOPTING A PRAYER METHOD OPENS THE DOOR TO A DEEPENING PRAYER LIFE.**

T.S. This morning we will look at three models for prayer in Scripture.

# Jabez

1 Chron 4:9-10

9 Jabez was more honorable than his brothers. His mother had named him Jabez, saying, "I gave birth to him in pain." 10 Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain." And God granted his request.

NIV

1 Chron 4:10

10 And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, "Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!" So God granted him what he requested.

NKJV

Daily developing the habit of asking God for four things.

## I. To dare to ask God to bless you.

- Personal not impersonal
- General not Specific request
- Fervent Desire not a weak wish
- Open ended not time limited.

## **II. To Ask God to enlarge your territory**

-- Asking God to expand your realm of influence for him

- Focused on change not your comfort
- Limitless not limited by our desire
- God's desires not yours.

## **III. To ask for God's Enabling Hand**

-- Asking God to enable you to do what he gives you opportunity to do.

- Wanting not just his power but his person
- Not mere human ingenuity, but divine intervention
- Looking not for the natural, but the supernatural

## **IV. To ask to be kept from Evil.**

-- Asking God to overshadow you with protection.

- Not about your comfort, its about avoiding evil
- Not just about harm that could beset you but avoiding harm to others.

## **Lord's Prayer**

Matt 6:5-13

5 "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. 6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and

pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. 7 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

9 "This, then, is how you should pray:

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

10 your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us today our daily bread.

12 Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'

NIV

## **I. Begin with affirming the relationship**

- Acknowledging who he is

## **II. Move to the praise of his name and character.**

- Praise him for what he means to you.

## **III. Surrender your will to his.**

- God may your will be done, not mine. This is your kingdom.

## **IV. Share your concerns and requests with him.**

- Feel free to ask in detail for God intervention in any area of your life.

## **V. Check your heart for Barricades**

- Confess known sins and failures. Forgive those who have failed or hurt you.

## **VI. Ask for his protection.**

- To be kept from evil and from doing evil.

### **Pauline Model**

Eph 1:15-19

15 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. 17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. 18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

The Pauline Model is an excellent prayer or pray for yourself and for others.

### **I. Begin with Thanksgiving.**

- Thanking God for what you have already seen him do, acknowledge his lordship and the greatness of his character

## II. Pray for the relationship

- To be transformed by what you already know in the relationship
- To know him better and better.

## III. Pray for an enlightened heart

- A heart sensitive to his will, his leading and his teaching.

## IV. Pray for an understanding of his calling.

- To know and understand what it means to you to be called of God.

We've looked at three models for prayer; three recipes that you can try to use to open the door to a more satisfying prayer life.

### CHALLENGE:



### ADOPTING A PRAYER METHOD OPENS THE DOOR TO A DEEPENING PRAYER LIFE.

- ☑ Pick one of the Models for Prayer.
- ☑ Decide on a time--In the morning, in shower, in the car, on my break, at lunch, before dinner, before sleep.
- ☑ Share your decision with someone else to cement it
- ☑ Practice the model for week. If you forget just start again.
- ☑ Work at developing the habit. Tweek the recipe until you discover what works for you.
- ☑ Expect it to make a difference.