A Prayer Workshop

*Morning Edition*

Discovering and Applying Biblical Prayer Principles from Hebrews 11

*Session Four: Seeking Refuge in the Ark*

*Prayer as Believing God’s Unseen Promises*

Hebrews 11:7

Hebrews 11:7 “By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.”

Praying in faith depends upon our perception of unseen things, that is, the things God has said and promised, but which are not visible in the moment. As the Apostle Paul says, we don’t hope for things that already are in our hand. Romans 8:24, 25. Noah “condemned the world” because his faith embraced what everyone else dismissed, namely, God’s coming judgment.

The same opportunity exists for believers today to embrace God’s promises yet to be fulfilled, and to pray accordingly. For example, every petition in the Lord’s Prayer is an expression of faith in the unseen: the Father in Heaven whose name is holy, whose Kingdom is still to come and whose will eventually will be done; tomorrow’s bread today; the forgiveness of sins; His guidance and deliverance; His Kingdom’s power and glory. This kind of praying (not reciting) is in contrast to the world’s agenda to have everything one selfishly wants right now, in front of their eyes.

1. We pray in the name of the unseen Jesus, whom we love. 1 Peter 1:8, 9

For the world, Jesus (if he existed at all) is history, dead and gone. But we pray in His name, and therefore rejoice today in anticipation of a future full salvation. He is alive and walking with us. Do your prayers reflect faith in this living Savior?

Scriptures: Acts 1:9-11; 3:17-21; Luke 10:21, 22

Prayer prompts: Father, reveal your Son to us as only you can do.

Father, help us walk with the living Christ. Now. Today.

Father, help us live for what is eternal, but for now unseen.

2. We pray for and live for others as those whose (unseen) God-image lives forever.

The world often uses people, but ours is to serve them and pray for them. Rather than focus upon what they are to us and can do for us, we follow the example of Jesus of laying down our lives for them and praying for them.

Scriptures: 1 John 4:19-21; 2 Corinthians 4:4-6, 16-18; 5:7, 16

Prayer prompts: Father, help us serve others as Jesus Himself taught us.

Father, free us from the temptation to use/control others.

Father, help us proclaim Christ while there is time.

3. Our prayers reflect our faith in Jesus who will return to judge everyone.

Just as Noah prepared for judgment by believing God, so also do we. Our Ark is Jesus, who has paid for our sins, preserves us through judgment, and one day will return to make ever everything right and all things new. Do you know Him?

Scriptures: 2 Thessalonians 2:5-12; 1 Peter 3:8-22

Prayer prompts: Father, grant us the joy and safety of living in Jesus.

Father, allow us to live in light of your judgment.

Father, give us the taste and love of divine things.

Let’s pray. . . A Model Prayer for the Safety of Sins Forgiven

Psalm 130 (ESV)

A Song of Ascents.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord!

O Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive

to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,

O Lord, who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness,

that you may be feared.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,

and in his word I hope;

my soul waits for the Lord

more than watchmen for the morning,

more than watchmen for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the Lord!

For with the Lord there is steadfast love,

and with him is plentiful redemption.

And he will redeem Israel

from all his iniquities.