

24 Salvation - Our approach to God

Clay and Potter



It is instructive to look at some passages where God describes his relationship with us as being like that between a potter and his clay. Look at Genesis 2:7; Job 10:9; 33:6; Isaiah 29:16; 45:9; Jeremiah 18:1-6; Romans 9:20-21 and summarise briefly what they tell us.

The Clay

What does clay need to be like to be useable? So what should we be like?

The Potter

What does a potter do in order to make a pot?
What does God do to us?



How should we approach God?

Given what we have thought about so far, what should be our frame of mind when we pray?

God has promised that he will hear our prayers



Matthew 7:7-11 – Does this mean that God will give us anything we ask for?

John 14:13-14 – What do the phrases ‘... in the name of Jesus’, or ‘... for the sake of Jesus Christ’ mean? Is it just something that we say at the end of a prayer or does it say something about what we are praying for, and how we are praying?

What can get in the way of our prayers?



Psalms 66:18; Proverbs 15:8; Isaiah 59:1-2

How should we pray?

Luke 18:1-7 – What can we learn from the poor widow and the unjust judge?

Luke 18:10-14 – The example of these two men is really important. What can we learn from them?

The content of our prayers



Think about the Lord's prayer; you can find it in Matthew 6:9-13 or Luke 11:2-4. What does it contain? Should our prayers contain all these elements? All the time?

Philippians 4:6-7 – What happens if we share our problems with the Lord God?

You could look at any Psalm and see how in every situation men and women shared their lives with God – Psalm 23 is a good example.

Here are some other examples:

1 Samuel 1:10-11

Luke 6:12

James 5:13-20

Does it matter if we don't know what to say?



Look at Romans 8:26-28. Don't be worried by the 'Spirit' imagine it with a small 's'. You could try reading substituting 'what's in your heart' for 'spirit'. See how in v28 Paul talks about those who love God.

Does God always answer our prayers as we would like?

Think about Paul – 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Starting points

Prayer is not always easy, and we all forget sometimes. What can we do to pray more readily?

Another model prayer



Look at Daniel's prayer, recorded in Daniel 9. What did he pray about? What can we learn from him? See also Daniel 6:10.