

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: Luke 11:1-4 “Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.’ So He said to them, “When you pray, say: Our Father *in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.* Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.”

Quote: “People only have true understanding when they look at everything from God’s perspective. Authentic wisdom begins when we understand that God is to be the object of our devotion, or adoration, and our reverence.” R. C. Sproul

Christ begins His model prayer by displaying reverence for His Father with the words, “*Hallowed be Your name.*” In 1961, A.W. Tozer wrote a sobering observation in The Knowledge of the Holy. “The church has surrendered her once lofty concept of God and has substituted for it one so low, so ignoble, as to be utterly unworthy of thinking, worshipping men. This she has done not deliberately, but little by little and without her knowledge; and her very unawareness only make her situation all the more tragic. The low view of God entertained almost universally among Christians is the cause of a hundred lesser evils everywhere among us. A whole new philosophy of the Christian life has resulted from this one basic error in our religious thinking. With our loss of the sense of majesty has come the further loss of religious awe and consciousness of the divine Presence. We have lost our spirit of worship and *our ability to withdraw inwardly to meet God in adoring silence.* Modern Christianity is simply not producing the kind of Christian who can appreciate or experience the life in the Spirit. The words, ‘Be still, and know that I am God’ mean next to nothing to the self-confident, bustling worshiper in this middle period of the twentieth century. It is impossible to keep our moral practices sound or our inward attitudes right while our idea of God is erroneous or inadequate.”

**Prayer—
Reverence**

Meditating upon God’s holiness should make us ponder our words well. Recall once again that Christ cautioned His disciples not to use vain, mindless repetition in their prayers. “And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.”¹ In the context of God’s intimacy (Our Father), God’s transcendency (in heaven) and God’s holiness (hallowed be your name), we would be wise to give heed to Solomon’s admonition to “Walk prudently when you go to the house of God; and draw near to hear rather than to give the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they do evil. Do not be rash with your mouth, And let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; Therefore let your words be few.”

“Only when we are captured by an overwhelming sense of awe and reverence in the presence of God, will we begin to worship God in spirit and in truth.”² One only has to read the account of Job in Job 42, Moses in Exodus 34, Isaiah in Isaiah 6, Ezekiel in Ezekiel 1, Paul in Acts 9, or John in Revelation 1 to get a secondary sense of the awe that should accompany contemplating the holiness of God. Not until we are in His presence will we begin to understand the majestic and moral holiness of the Almighty Who has made us His children by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone for His glory alone. Then we, too, will be able to join the pure worship of saints and angels who proclaim “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts.”² Until then may we seek to reverently approach the throne of grace in our prayers and in our worship with a watchful care that our focus is upon giving to Him and not getting from Him.³

How subtle is the flesh within that worships worship and not Him—the great and glorious God of light Whose grace redeemed from my plight! Oh Holy Spirit, guide my thoughts that I might worship as I ought, and weigh the word-gift that I bring in homage to the King of kings.

“Every time you get on your knees and pray to God, ‘Holy’ keeps the respect and reverence while ‘Father’ brings Him close and intimate.” Ravi Zacharias

1 Matthew 6:7 2 Alistair Begg 3 Romans 8:26