

Don't Get Locked Out

58 - Ephesians: Rise Up & Walk
Church on the Park Live | Sunday, 14 June 2020

Text: “Son, you have always been with me, and all that is mine is yours” (Luke 15:31, NASB).

Theme: The secret place of prayer is the key to daily walking strong with God.

Intro: This week Anna and I got locked out of our house. We forgot that we removed our house key from our main key ring. It was our day off and I was completely exhausted. In the car on the way home from lunch, Anna remarked at how tired I looked and I was just looking to get home and lie down. But no, we were locked out. And we knew our keys were only a meter away but our locked door blocked us from getting it. There we stood with everything we owned just at hand but we had no access to it. Finally, after about two hours Gideon rescued us by coming home from work and opening our house with his key.

Today, I want to give you five pointers to help you have a daily time with God. A daily time with God is the key to accessing the Father's presence and all he has given you.

Forgetting the Father's Heart

How is your daily prayer time going? Is it going? Was it part of your life and now you've lost it? Or have you forgotten this powerful key?

Our whole house and everything inside—all that we had—was **kept from us** for a short period just because of a **small, tiny key**.

The next day in the morning when I was alone with God, **the Word of the Lord** came to me. And it all had to do with this key.

The **Father** has given us **his house**, which is also **our house, our inheritance**. But everything inside can be **locked up** from us because of a small key. It yours, but you **can't access** it without **the key of secret prayer**.

Listen to the plight of the **older brother** in the **Parable of the Prodigal Son**. Many of us are like this older brother.

“And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has received him back safe and sound.’ “But **he became angry and was not willing to go in**; and his father came out and *began pleading with him*. “But he answered and said to his father, ‘Look! For so many years **I have been serving you and I have never neglected a command** of yours; and *yet* you have never given me a young goat, so that I might celebrate with my friends; but when this son of yours came, who has devoured your ^awealth with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him.’ “And he said to him, ‘**Son, you have always been with me, and all that is mine is yours**. ‘But we had to celebrate and rejoice, for this brother of yours was dead and *has begun to live, and was lost and has been found*’ ” (Lk 15:27–32, NASB).

Notice how **the older brother 'locked' himself out** of the **father's house** and the **father's joy**. It was all because he was **angry** and **forgot the father's heart** for the **dead and lost**.

There's many reasons why you may keep yourself from the Father's house. You could be angry. You could be distracted. You could be chasing sin rather than pursuing God. But **the way back** is always the same—it is through **the Master Key: Jesus, the Lord and Messiah**.

Notice how the father says, “**Son, you have always been with me, and all that is mine is yours**.” This is something we can easily **forget**, especially if we've been **saved for some time**.

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We easily gravitate toward thinking we are a **victim—someone neglected, abused and underprivileged**. But that is not the case. We need to have the **helmet of salvation** firmly on our heads, remembering that we are **blessed and highly favoured**.

The Five P's of Personal Prayer

It is through secret prayer that we enter into the secret place of the Father's heart.

1) Place

- *Do you have a go-to place where you meet with your Father?*
- My first pointer is **find your place, your niche** with God.
- It needs to be a **secret place** where other **people** and even **technology** won't **bother you**.
- Look at **Jesus' example**: "But Jesus Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray" (Luke 5:16, NASB).
- Look at what **Jesus' taught** in Matthew 6:6: "But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you."

2) Period of Time

- *Do you have a set period of time when you meet with your Father?*
- In other words, it's like a **divine date**. This is a date with your Maker and Bridegroom, the lover of your soul.
- He **longs** to meet with you even more than you long to meet with him.
- He **cherishes** this time with you.
 - Sometimes you will be **raptured** with his glory; other times you will sit in **quietness** with him like an old married couple.
- Look at **Jesus' example in Mark 1:35**: "In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went away to a secluded place and was praying there."
 - This was **Jesus' pattern and practice**.
 - The only way you can live like Jesus is to pray like Jesus.
- **Daniel's periods of prayer** (Daniel 6:10).
- **Start small**. Start small like a seed. For me, it was just spending **5 minutes** with God a day.
 - The key is **consistency and dailiness**.

3) Plan

- *Do you have a plan when you prayer?*
- My third pointer is have a **plan and purpose** when you pray.
- For example, my plan recently has been meditating, writing and praying on **Psalms 119**—a portion of Psalm 119 each week.
- **1 Chronicles 16:8-36** gives us a clear exhortation on what to do before God's throne.
 - This is **the key of David—ministering the the Lord first**.
 - The continual Hebrew **imperatives**, these key words end with the **'oo' sound as in 'you.'** All throughout this poem the lines and verses begin with a word ending with this 'oo' sound.
 - **Read** from Hebrew in **End Notes**.
- **20 Practices in Prayer**
 - 1 - Thanks
 - 2 - Call
 - 3 - Make known - [But first know through reading & studying so that you can make known]
 - 4 - Sing
 - 5 - Make music
 - 6 - Meditate enthusiastically
 - 7 - Revel in his holy name
 - 8 - Rejoice
 - 9 - Seek diligently Yahweh and his strength
 - 10 - Discover his face continually
 - 11 - Remember
 - 12 - Proclaim

- 13 - Write (recount/declare/record)
- 14 - Give - Come on! - Praise (Ascribe)
- 15 - Lift up an offering
- 16 - Worship - Bow down
- 17 - Wait - Hope
- 18 - Praise - Confess & Give Thanks
- 19 - Say/Ask
- 20 - Intercede - Save Us, Gather Us, Deliver Us
- These are **like twenty notches and ridges on the key** for you to turn. Use this key of David to dwell in God's secret place.

4) Pen & Paper

- *Do you take pen and paper with you into your prayer times?*
- All throughout Scripture God exhorts his servants to **write down** what they see and hear. That's how we have the Bible.
 - One example is at the **beginning of Revelation**. Jesus says to John: "Write in a book what you see..." (Rev. 1:11).
- **Journal, journal, journal**
- Write down your times with the Lord and your prayers.
- Watch my three part series on **Journaling on YouTube (Glen Gerhauser)**.
 - On it, I give twelve tips on journaling.

5) Practice

- **You learn to drive by practice.** You learn a **language** by practice. You learn to **surf** by practice.
 - You will learn how to **pray through practice**.
- You want to do it **everyday** so that it becomes a **daily habit**—it becomes **who you are**.
 - You are a seeker of your Father. You constantly live in your Father's house and presence.

Conclusion: 1) Place, 2) Period of Time, 3) Plan, 4) Pen & Paper, and 5) Practice. These five things will give you full access into the Father's house if you do them in faith, hope and love.

End Notes

1 Chronicles 16:8-36

הוֹדוּ לַיהוָה
קְרְאוּ בְשֵׁמוֹ
הוֹדִיעוּ בְּעַמִּים עֲלִילְתוֹ:

שִׁירוּ לוֹ
זַמְרוּ לוֹ
שִׁיחוּ בְּכָל־נִפְלְאוֹתָיו:

הִתְהַלְלוּ בְּשֵׁם קִדְשׁוֹ
יִשְׂמַח לֵב מִבְּקִשֵׁי יְהוָה:

דַּרְשׁוּ יְהוָה וְעִזּוּ
בְּקִשׁוֹ פְּנֵי תַמִּיד:

זָכְרוּ נִפְלְאוֹתַי אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה
מִפְתִּיּוֹ וּמִשְׁפָּטַי־פִּיהוּ:

13 זָרַע יִשְׂרָאֵל עֲבָדוּ בְּנֵי יַעֲקֹב בְּחִירָיו:
14 הוּא יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ בְּכָל־הָאָרֶץ מִשְׁפָּטָיו:
15 זָכְרוּ לְעוֹלָם בְּרִיתוֹ דָּבָר צוּה לְאֶלֶף דָּוָר:
16 אֲשֶׁר כָּרַת אֶת־אֲבֹרָהֶם וּשְׁבוּעָתוֹ לִיצְחָק:
17 וַיַּעֲמִדָהּ לַיַּעֲקֹב לְחֹק לְיִשְׂרָאֵל בְּרִית עוֹלָם:
18 לֵאמֹר לְךָ אֶתֵּן אֶרֶץ־כְּנָעַן חֶבֶל נַחֲלַתְכֶם:
19 בְּהִיוֹתְכֶם מִתֵּי מִסְפָּר כַּמַּעֵט וְגָרִים בָּהּ:
20 וַיִּתְהַלְכוּ מִגּוֹי אֶל־גּוֹי וּמִמַּמְלָכָה אֶל־עַם אֲחֵר:
21 לֹא־הִנִּיחַ לְאִישׁ לַעֲשֹׂקֶם וַיּוֹכַח עֲלֵיהֶם מְלָכִים:
22 אֶל־תִּגְעוּ בַּמְשִׁיחִי וּבַנְּבִיאִי אֶל־תִּרְעוּ: פ
23 שִׁירוּ לַיהוָה כָּל־הָאָרֶץ בְּשָׁנוֹ מִיּוֹם־אֶל־יוֹם יִשׁוּעָתוֹ:
24 סִפְרוּ בְּגוֹיִם אֶת־כְּבוֹדוֹ בְּכָל־הָעַמִּים נִפְלְאוֹתָיו:
25 כִּי גָדוֹל יְהוָה וּמִהַלֵּל מְאֹד וְנוֹרָא הוּא עַל־כָּל־אֱלֹהִים:
26 כִּי כָל־אֱלֹהֵי הָעַמִּים אֱלִילִים וַיְהוָה שָׁמַיִם עָשָׂה:
27 הָיָה וְהָדָר לְפָנָיו עֵז וְחֻדוֹה בְּמִקְמוֹ:
28 הָבֹו לַיהוָה מִשְׁפָּחוֹת עַמִּים הָבֹו לַיהוָה כְּבוֹד וְעֵז:
29 הָבֹו לַיהוָה כְּבוֹד שְׁמוֹ שְׂאוּ מִנְּחָהּ וּבֹאוּ לְפָנָיו הַשְׁתַּחֲוּוּ
לַיהוָה בְּהַדְרַת־קֹדֶשׁ:
30 חִילוּ מִלְּפָנָיו כָּל־הָאָרֶץ אַף־תִּכְוֹן תִּבֵּל בַּל־תִּמּוֹט:
31 יִשְׁמְחוּ הַשָּׁמַיִם וְתִגַּל הָאָרֶץ וַיֹּאמְרוּ בְּגוֹיִם יְהוָה מֶלֶךְ:
32 יִרְעֵם הָיִם וּמְלוֹאוּ יַעֲלֶץ הַשָּׂדֶה וְכָל־אֲשֶׁר־בּוֹ:
33 אֲזִ יִרְנְנוּ עֲצֵי הַיַּעַר מִלְּפָנָי יְהוָה כִּי־בָא לִשְׁפּוֹט אֶת־הָאָרֶץ:
34 הוֹדוּ לַיהוָה כִּי טוֹב כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֲסִדוֹ:
35 וַאֲמָרוּ הוֹשִׁיעֵנוּ אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׁעֵנוּ וְקַבְּצֵנוּ וְהַצִּילֵנוּ מִן־הַגּוֹיִם
לְהַדוֹת לְשֵׁם קֹדֶשְׁךָ לְהַשְׁתַּבַּח בְּתִהְלַתְךָ:
36 בְּרוּךְ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מִן־הָעוֹלָם וְעַד הָעוֹלָם וַיֹּאמְרוּ
כָּל־הָעַם אָמֵן וְהִלֵּל לַיהוָה: פ

[The Lexham Hebrew Bible](#). (2012). (1 Ch 16:8–36). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.