**God-Pleasing Prayer (1 Kings 3:5-14)**

 God-pleasing prayer is done with a humble and honest heart.

 Greetings to you dear brothers and sisters, as we return in this summer season to our journey of getting a taste of the Old Testament books. Before we had entered the Easter season, we had stopped off at 2 Samuel; today, we are looking at 1 Kings, in which we notice the life of King Solomon. From that we are going to address the topic of prayer, because if the life of a disciple of Christ is prayerful, then their mission and life-walk will have the right effect on society. In other words, without prayer, our Christianity remains either a purely academic exercise or a performance. Knowing this, however, means that prayer is to be God-pleasing in so that it reaches its intended goal and the person’s spiritual life grows. This is what we must discuss today. We’re going to speak about how it is possible to send up God-pleasing prayers to Him. Once again, today’s theme is that God-pleasing prayer is done with a humble and honest heart. Let us speak then, about the contents of right prayer…

 The prayer that pleases God is always focused on the Lord’s will – not man’s. Solomon’s prayer is a clear lesson for us as to what the contents of prayer should be. First, Solomon remembers God’s works, which means that He is showing God respect. He remembers the good things that were given to his family, especially the Lord’s blessings in his father David’s life. Beyond that, he declares that he knows David’s God as his God as well, calling Him, “Lord, my God”. After glorifying the Lord and recognizing Him as such, Solomon’s prayer was focused on caring for God’s people. Solomon did not ask for material wealth, because he prayed with a humble heart and saw the needs of the people entrusted to him. In other words, Solomon took up God’s heart, one full of compassion for his people. Thus, when God saw that Solomon requested that which was going to advance His own plan, He granted the young king more than he had asked for. Nevertheless, Solomon’s many material blessings were contingent on his faithfulness to the Lord. In other words, Solomon’s prayer was right because his focus was on doing God’s will and not his.

A great missionary leader once said, when someone asked him how he was chosen for the work in China, that God chose a little man so that men might see what a great God we have.

Humility. If we desire that our prayers be pleasing to God, we are to approach our Savior with humble hearts. Yes, we can be thankful for our many “things.” We can be thankful for our families, our comfort, our wealth. But it is all the more indispensable that we glorify the Lord first – by remembering Him and His deeds – and then by presenting our requests with His plans in mind. If we pray and give the Lord all the glory, He will add to us that which we need, and even more than we can think.

Therefore, come and let us always begin our prayers with glorification, with our words of thanks having in mind His plans for us and everybody else. Let us request from Him that which will advance His plans in our lives. Let us ask that which adds to His glory through our spiritual lives. In one word, let us ask for what is Godly, and meanwhile the Lord will take care of our bodily needs…

The prayer that pleases God is always focused on the Lord’s will – not man’s. God-pleasing prayer is done with a humble and honest heart.

Therefore, let us ask for *the Lord’s* will. Let us praise *the Lord’s* works. Let us focus on *the Lord’s* plans for us. The Lord bless you all. Amen.