

## A Change of Stance

Scripture: Matthew 6:25 – 34

6/20/21

We see answers to prayer when we put God first in our lives!

Let us pray:

Dear God, we often come to you in prayer with a wish list. We pray only for things that we want. We often act like a child a Christmas with our prayers to you.

Dear God if only we would put you first because when we put you first in our lives, our prayers are answered. Let us hear your word as we listen to this message about changing our stance. AMEN.

We see answers to prayer when we put God first in our lives.

Recently I heard a story about a golfer who kept missing the ball on his swing. The golfer stepped up to the ball and he would swing and miss over and over again. Finally the golfer stepped back and said - 'Boy, this is a tough game!'

One of his fellow golfers suggested he change his stance. He suggested that he address the ball differently. The golfer did and it solved his problem. He was able to hit the ball.

In golf, when you prepare to hit the ball, you are taught to address the ball. That does not mean going up to the ball and saying 'Hello Ball!' Addressing the ball means taking your stance near the ball.

Many of the problems in golf coming from address the ball incorrectly. A golf swing has many different movements, the most important of which is your stance.

If your stance has one of your feet out of line, or if your stance has your hands too far forward or back, or if your stance has too much weight on your back foot or front foot, or if your stance has you standing too straight up or too hunched over, or (I think you get the idea) - you will hook or slice the golf ball or even miss the golf ball!

Boy, golf is a tough game! Most sports have a critical stance in them.

This idea reminds me of my prayer life when I was younger. I prayed often but my prayers were ones of wants. I ask God for all sorts of things. Think about your prayer life when you were younger. Did you not make you prayers just a wish list like a child at Christmas?

Most of my prayers when I was younger went unanswered.

Listen to Matthew 6:33 again - Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.

Our Lord is gently suggesting through these words that we need to change our stance. Our Lord is saying that we have been swinging and missing for too long, we need to change our stance.

Let me us plane words for you - we need to change the way we pray!

I think we often get hung up on how we pray. We get caught up in where we pray. We caught up in when we pray, and we just do not pray.

As I child, I prayed little ditties. I prayer repetitive prayers and I got so good at them that I could do them at a record pace. I was a speed prayerer! Let me demonstrate - I could say the 'Our Father', as I called it back then, pretty fast.

(Rattle off the 'Our Father')

That is not praying. I neither meant the words nor thought about the words.

One of the most powerful Christian groups I was ever part of was a young adult group on prayer. During our first week we talked about things that we do over and over again during the day. Many of the people shared - washing their hands, going to the bathroom, and eating. I shared - turning the channel on the TV. I love the remote control. I love the power I have when I have the remote control. I will often carry the remote with me when I leave the room so that I do not lose control of the remote. In my house, if you want the remote - ask me!

Our concluding exercise was that we were ask to pray every time we did our repetitive thing, that meant I had to pray every time I used the remote control for the TV.

This prayer exercise did not work for me. I know that the purpose of the commitment was for me to pray more, but what I ended up doing is using the remote control less. I can remember looking at the remote control and saying to myself - I guess I will watch the commercials or I did not need to check sports scores.

Isn't that the way we are with prayer. We often do more work trying not to pray than just praying. We need to change our stance!

Listen to Matthew 6:33 again - Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.

We need to step up to prayer and address prayer. I know it will be hard. We may need get our lives in line, or we may need to get our hands together, or we may need to shift our priorities, or we may need to get on our knees. Whatever it maybe - DO IT! We have been hooking and slicing our prayers for too long.

We need to change our stance! Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you. We see answers to prayer when we put God first in our lives!

My challenge to you – Find something you do every day and before you do it, pray. I hope you are up to this challenge? So, what act you do each day, are you going pray before doing it?

Let us pray:

Lord God, help us to change our stance in our prayers so that we are seeking the right things and listening to your Holy Spirit to set our priorities. We are grateful for your precious Word and the wisdom it offers us for living our lives for you. AMEN.