

## **FAITH MATTERS # 1 – Five Kinds of Prayer – Jan. 29**

When he asked me, “What do you pray for?” I answered, “At my age I don’t pray often for myself now; I use a different prayer. So he asked, “Is there a different kind of prayer.” What I told him, I’d like to pass on to you this morning: that there are 5 kinds of prayer.

The first one is adoration, when we acknowledge the power, majesty and love of our Creator, his presence with us in Jesus Christ, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The second kind of prayer is confession, when we acknowledge how far behind we are in following Jesus Christ from day to day.

After that comes thanksgiving, when we begin to count the blessings that have come from God for us, for our families, our church, our nation. The list is so long that we will need eternity in heaven to cover most of what we are grateful for.

Adoration, confession, thanksgiving; and now we can begin to ask – but not for ourselves yet – we pray for others. That prayer is called intercession, when we lift up in prayer the hungry, the ill, those facing times of difficulty whether at home, at school, in the hospital. We pray for teachers, politicians, doctors, for our suffering planet; again, the list is endless.

Finally we get around to the fifth kind of prayer, petition, prayers for ourselves, maybe for more faith, for strength to face temptation, for overcoming fear, for a job. By the time you have spent half a minute in each of the previous four kinds of prayer, you may discover that your prayers for yourself have changed.

Notice that those 5 prayers form the structure for our Sunday worship. On most Sundays, “Faith Matters” presentations will focus on each one of those five kinds of prayers. If you’d like to suggest additional topics, drop your requests into the “Faith Matters” envelope behind the goodies in the Coffee area.

(by Rev. Willard Pottinger – Erskine Presbyterian Church, Hamilton)