

An Audience With The King

Prayer: An Audience With The King, by Joel Petermann
(Northwestern Publishing House, 180 pp., \$13.99)

How is your prayer life? Would you like to improve it and make it more effective? This book on prayer, part of the People's Bible Teaching series from Northwestern Publishing House, provides a very interesting perspective on prayer by reminding all of us that Jesus is the King (our Redeemer King) and we are his subjects. From this perspective, Pastor Petermann reminds us that prayer is our opportunity to come into the court of heaven and talk to the King of the universe!

Pastor Petermann breaks the book up into 12 chapters around a basic outline: Who is this King; What is our status before this King; How and with what words is it proper to speak to this King.

Like all the books in this NPH series, Pastor Petermann shows how prayer should be understood from the clear passages of scripture and how this applies to our faith and life.

As part of his research, Pastor Petermann sent out surveys to selected WELS members regarding every aspect of their prayer life including what posture they used when praying. The survey responses were used to compare how and where and how often we prayed to how and where and how often people prayed in the Bible. As just one example, what to do with your hands, Pastor Petermann notes that a very common posture for prayer in the Bible was to lift up hands with outstretched palms. This is something we don't normally practice, yet a posture that makes a lot of sense when one considers that he is praying to the King of the universe who is also our Father and our Redeemer and who wants us to receive gifts from Him.

Other insights from Pastor Petermann include misconceptions about prayer, especially how some people expect God to speak to them directly while they are praying. We are reminded that we have no promise from God that he will talk to us directly in prayer or in any other way apart from his Word in the Bible. Prayer however is our opportunity to talk to him after we have first listened to Him through his Word. This is important because "once we know what his Word says, then we are ready to respond with our prayers and requests, asking him to help us in the very way he has told us he will." (Remember that the next time someone tells you that "God told me quit my job and move"). Other chapters on The Etiquette of Prayer, An Open Invitation from the King, and The Father-King Answers Prayer, among others, provided similar valuable insights.

Prayer is an important part of our lives as God's people. This book will help you to appreciate more fully the privilege of an audience with the King.

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