

"Teach us To Pray"



- *Prelude scriptures:*
 - **Isaiah 43: 18-21** Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing;
 - **Exodus 3:7-9** The Lord has "seen," He has "heard," and He "knew about their oppression - and have decided to deliver them from religious oppression.
 - QUESTION #1: What is religion and its purpose?
 - QUESTION #3: Is Christianity a religion? Why or why not? What are some similarities it has with other religions or how it is distinguished from other religions?

Luke 11: 1-4 Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples." So He said to them, "When you pray, say:

Our Father in heaven,

Hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us day by day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins,

For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

And do not lead us into temptation,

But deliver us from the evil one."

Situation

Rabbis often composed prayers for their disciples to recite. Having seen Jesus pray many times, they knew of **His love for prayer**, and they knew **prayer was not just the reciting of word**. The disciples saw Jesus off by Himself in prayer. **Seeing the power, wisdom, and joy in His life, they asked Him to teach them to pray as He did.** They wanted to connect with God in an intimate relationship and experience His awesome presence.

The greatest argument for the priority of prayer is the fact that our Lord was a man of prayer.

Thus far we have seen that **He prayed at His baptism (Luke 3:21),**

Before He chose the Twelve (6:12),

When the crowds increased (5:16),

Before He asked the Twelve for their confession of faith (9:18),

and at His Transfiguration (9:29).

Observation

The disciples knew that He often prayed alone (Mark 1:35), and they wanted to learn from Him this secret of spiritual power and wisdom. If Jesus Christ, the perfect Son of God, had to depend on prayer while He was here on earth (*Heb. 5:7 - who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear*), then how much more do you and I need to pray! Effective prayer is the provision for every need and the solution for every problem.

Your deliverance from religious oppression is for you to start praying and communicating with the True and Unique God, the Creator of all.

The disciples had been watching Jesus and had come to know that His prayers were always heard, and that the continued source of His power and utter freedom from pride came through secret prayer. This created a hunger in them to know how to pray, so they asked to be taught. Shall we not all enrol in the school of prayer and make Christ our teacher? Shall we not practice faithfully every day the lessons we learn in prayer?

I like the King James translation [of Hebrews 11:6]: "He is a rewarder of them that *diligently* seek him". "Diligently" — what a great word. Be diligent in your search. Be hungry in your quest, relentless in your pilgrimage. Let this book be but one of dozens you read about Jesus and this hour be but one of hundreds in which you seek Him. Step away from the puny pursuits of possessions and positions, and seek your King of Kings and the Lord of Lord.

Inspiration

Notice the order in this prayer. First Jesus praised God; then he made his requests.

Praising God first puts us in the right frame of mind to tell him about our needs. Too often our prayers are more like shopping lists than conversations.

God's provision comes daily, not all at once. We cannot store it up and then cut off communication with God. And we dare not be self-satisfied. If you are running low on strength, ask yourself, How long have I been away from the Source?

We need to stay within the bounds of certain general principles of prayer and learn:

1. **How to begin** - *Mt. 11:25 - At that time Jesus answered and said, "**I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth**, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes.*
2. **Whom to address** - *Jn. 14:13-15 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.*
3. **Whose name to revere** - *Lk. 11:2 So He said to them, "When you pray, say Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come.*

4. Whose will to obey - Luke 11:2 *Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*
5. Whose interests to serve and have at heart - Mt. 22:37 *Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."*
6. What to ask for (Lk. 11:2-4)
7. How to keep clear channels to God - 1Jn. 3:21-22 *Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.*
8. How to live with our fellowmen - Mk. 11:25-26 *And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses."*
9. How to live with God - Jn. 17:2-3 *...And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*
10. How to live free from sin - Luke 11:4 *And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one."*

Take Away

Payer is about acknowledging God's Kingdom above other kingdoms. The children came from Egypt, symbolizes an earthly kingdom with various rules and regulations that had more than fifty gods to call upon. God's Kingdom is framed in three outcomes:

1. God's Kingdom is byproduct of obedience to the Holy Spirit;
2. God's Kingdom is byproduct of embody the teachings of Jesus on Kingdom Values
Romans 14:17 - For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
3. God's Kingdom is byproduct of Glorify the Father in Heaven