

**“Lord, teach us to pray!”**

In Luke 11:1 we read, “*And it came to pass, that, as He [Jesus] was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.*”

There was nothing formal, or ordinary about Jesus’ praying. Can you imagine Jesus’ groaning, tears, and child-like faith in the urgency of His praying? His disciples marveled at His praying and asked, “*Lord, teach us to pray!*” Jesus’ Disciples needed to be taught how to pray and so do we!

Jesus’ responses in verses 2-4, “*And He said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil*” (Luke 11:2-4).

Jesus teaches that when we pray we are to enter into God’s presence with praise and adoration, recognizing who God is and our relationship to Him . We are to seek His kingdom, or His rule – and His will – to be done one earth as it is in heaven. We are to pray for our daily needs. Jesus, using the title, “*bread,*” refers to our simple, common everyday needs, such as food, clothes, shelter, job and physical necessities. As a child who comes to his father for his needs! – (his “*daily bread*”) – we are to come to God and ask for our daily necessities.

And Jesus teaches that prayer includes confession of our sins and asking for forgiveness. “*Forgive us our sins for we also forgive everyone who sins against us,*” certainly shows how important it is to forgive others. Prayer is asking God for guidance – (using the spiritual weapons He has provided – Ephesians 6:10-18)

And then prayer includes asking for God’s protection and guidance, “*Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*”

We are to daily pray for bread, forgiveness, guidance and protection.

Notice, however, that Jesus did not put an “*Amen*” at this juncture of this prayer! Christ’s *lesson on prayer was not over!* What we refer to as “*The Lord’s Prayer*” is simply “*Elementary praying.*” Now, Jesus goes further into the marvelous realm of intercessory praying and teaches concerning a broken hearted, burdened, pleading prayer – *a prayer for a friend!*

Luke 11:5-6, “*And He said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him?*”

***Blessed is the man who has a friend!*** This one, whom Jesus speaks of has **TWO** friends. Every Christian has two friends: First, God, is a Friend nearby with plenty of bread, and, two, the Christian has friends without any bread. We, as Christians, are to be channels between God, who

has plenty of bread and our friends without any bread. Jesus teaches that we are pray, “*As a man who desperately needs bread for a friend, and so he goes to another friend and pleads until he gets all he needs!*”

There are two extremes in Christianity, There are those who never separate themselves from the world and live like the world; and there are those who separate themselves so completely from the world that they have no concern for the sinner, whosoever.

We are to be the link between two worlds – between God and those who are without the Bread of Life!

We need to pray as

- Moses prayed for others in Exodus 32:32, “*If You will not forgive their sin, blot me I pray out of Your book which You have written;*”
- or as Esther prayed and saved the whole Jewish nation from the hands of Haman;
- or as Daniel , “*By prayer and supplication, with fasting*” prayed for his brethren – the Jews;
- or, as Paul prayed, “*In great heaviness, continual sorrow of heart prayer, I could wish myself accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsman according to the flesh;*”
- or as, Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane when He cried, “*My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even unto death*” (Matthew 26:38), in verse 42 we are told that He prays, “*Father not My will but Thine be done,*” and I Luke 22:44, “*He sweat as it were great drops of blood.*”

Notice in this lesson on prayer that Jesus teaches, in verse 6, prayer is **CONFESSION**: “*A friend of mine in his journey is come to me and I have nothing to set before him.*” What is Jesus teaching here? We must admit our responsibility! We need to confess, “*Here is this friend who has come my way and I have nothing to give him!*” We have a responsibility to our friends and associates. God expects us to give them “*The Bread of Life!*”

So many Christians barely mention their friends in prayer. They are even too timid to invite them to church. We need to confess: “*God, I don’t have what it takes.*” Jesus teaches that prayer is “*seeking God for help for a friend*”

Jesus is teaching we must have power of the Holy Spirit, boldness, concern travail of soul, burning words and tears for our friends. We must be honest and pray this prayer of confession, “*I have a friend who has come to me **AND I HAVE NOTHING TO GIVE HIM!***” “*Oh, God I confess my failure, barrenness, shallowness, and my lack of fruit-bearing!*” Alibis and excuses will not do. God has bread and His compassionate heart desires to give bread, not just “*bread*” but rather He has provided a “*wedding feast!*” However, this bread must be carried *by Christians!* Jesus is teaching that we get bread from Him, which He has in abundance, and give it to those who have done!

Then, Jesus teaches, to get this bread it takes **IMPORTUNITY!** Notice verses **7-8**, “*And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. <sup>8</sup> I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give*

*him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.”* Jesus is simply saying, “*Pray through,*” or, “*Pray until the answer comes.*”

Notice in verse 5 that Jesus teaches that this takes place at “*midnight.*” Jesus speaks of a breaking up ordinary routine of life – a willingness to take extraordinary measures. This kind of praying is inconvenient!

Some ask, “*Does God always answer our prayers?*” In verse 7 Jesus teaches that the one who had the bread answers, “*Don’t bother me!*” At first indication there doesn’t seem to be a favorable answer. He says, “*Don’t trouble me!*” Why did Jesus teach that prayer is like this person representing God gives such a manner that almost seems discouraging?

Let me ask you, “*Would you give your six years old daughter a modern, electric sewing machine?*” “*Would you give your young son the electric saw to play with?*” “*Would you let your ten year old take your automobile out for a spin?*” The answer is obvious. We all know that high-powered expensive machines are not for infants.

It is foolish to expect God to place the dynamite of heaven into the careless hands of those who do not know how to travail, to carry a burden for souls or see all of life in the light of eternity. God will not give this power to light-hearted Christians who casually ask for it. This power to defeat Satan and transform lives. This is the same infinite power raised Jesus from the dead.

Jesus teaches in verse 8 that it is, “*Because of the man’s persistence of the man who needs bread for his friend, he [the One who has the bread] will get up and give him as much as he needs!*”

As Christians, we have the right to pray, “*Our Father which are in heaven – give me bread – forgiveness – guidance – and – protection,*” however, Jesus continues in His answer on how to pray by giving a lesson on intercessory praying. The “*friend*” was provided for because of the importunity, the pleading and the insistence of the one whom was asking for bread. There are some blessings that will not come unless there is pleading, waiting upon God and praying through.

You are saved the moment you come to God however, we receive this “*power*” after earnestly seeking God’s blessing.

How do we pray? Jesus teaches that we must relentlessly ask, seek and knock. Jesus tells us to be like a man who “*rattles the door.*” Be persistent, and incessant. What seems like a “*No!*” answer from God does not always mean “*No!*” Here is encouragement to everyone longing to provide the Living Bread with a friend. Jesus simply means to keep on asking!

Verses 9-10 say, “*And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.*” [The Greek wording involves a continued asking, seeking, knocking].

Don’t be afraid to ask God because God never gives *bad* gifts! In verses 11-13, Jesus says, “*If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he*

*ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?"*

Jesus waited until the vast last words to say, "*Pray for the Holy Spirit!*"