

# TEACH ME TO PRAY

*Lord, teach us to pray – Luke 11:1*

A series of lessons on prayer adapted from *Prayer: A Special Study* by Mark A. Copeland  
Plus special study on the *Prayers of Jesus* by Tommy Kelton



**Lakeport Christian Church**  
*Wednesday Evening Bible Study*

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## Lesson 1 – Introduction to Prayer

### What is Prayer?

#### **Defining Prayer**

- OT **Hebrew** word used most means:
  - *To intercede; to mediate; to judge*
  - *From a word that means to “fall down”*
- NT **Greek** word used most means:
  - Toward – suggests intimate; closeness; to wish; to desire; to vow

### Praying to God

#### **Devotion**

- Romans 12:12
  - **Devoted** to prayer
- Colossians 4:2
  - **Devote** yourself to prayer
- I Thessalonians 5:17
  - Pray **without ceasing**

#### **Reasons to Pray**

- Prayers of a righteous man avails much
  - James 5:16
- When it is the Lord’s will, prayers of faith will raise the sick
  - James 5:15
- Prayers bring the peace of God which guard our hearts and minds
  - Philippians 4:6-7
- Prayers can bring peace among nations
  - I Timothy 2:1-2
- Prayer gives strength in dealing with temptation
  - Matthew 26:41
- Prayer provides forgiveness for Christians who fall into temptation
  - Acts 8:22; I John 1:9
- Prayer opens doors to spread of the gospel
  - Matthew 9:38; Colossians 4:2-3;
  - II Thessalonians 3:1
- Prayer provides boldness
  - Ephesians 6:18-20

#### **Do NOT Pray this Way!**

- Matthew 6:5-8
  - **To be seen by men**
    - Go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father
    - Does not mean there should be no public prayers
  - **Using meaningless repetition**

### ***Do Pray this Way!***

- Matthew 6:9
  - **We pray to our Father Who is in heaven**
    - Our Father
      - Creator God
    - Hallowed be Your name
      - Holy and Honor
      - Respect and Reverence
- Matthew 6:10
  - **We pray for the Lord's Church**
    - Your kingdom (the church) would come
      - The church has come! (Acts 2 and the Day of Pentecost)
    - That God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
- Matthew 6:11
  - **We pray for daily needs**
    - Give us this day our daily bread.
    - Difference between needs and wants
    - Pray for our physical needs to be met
    - Shows our dependence upon the Creator God
- Matthew 6:12, 14-15
  - **We pray for forgiveness**
    - Forgive us our debts (legally owed)
    - Conditional - As we also have forgiven our debtors
    - If you forgive others, God will also forgive you
- Matthew 6:13
  - **We pray for perseverance**
    - Do not lead us into temptation
    - Deliver us from evil
- Matthew 6:13
  - **We pray for perseverance**
    - God can deliver us because
      - His is the kingdom
      - His is the power
      - His is the glory forever
- Matthew 6:13
  - **End with an Amen**
    - Comes from the Hebrew word meaning:
      - Truly; truth
    - So be it
    - Agree
- Ephesians 5:20
  - **Pray in Jesus' name**
    - Give thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God
    - Means by the authority

## Teach Me to Pray

- Romans 8:26-27
  - **When you do not know what to pray**
    - Pray that God's will would be done
    - The Holy Spirit Himself intercedes for us
    - He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

### ***Getting the most out of your prayer life***

- **Believe in the power of prayer**
  - Power in persistent prayer
    - Matthew 7:7-11
  - Power in praying together
    - Matthew 18:19
  - Power in praying with faith
    - Matthew 21:22
  - We must be:
    - Doing the Father's will
    - Asking according to His will
- **Develop a personal practice of prayer**
  - "Twenty-one times makes a habit"
    - Don DeWalt
  - Spend regular time in prayer
  - Prayer will mean more to you if you pray regularly
- **Humble yourself when you pray**
  - Talking to the Creator should be done humbly
  - This could be enhanced by our posture in praying
  - The Bible describes many different praying postures
  - Remember though, one can be in a humble posture, and yet not be humble in spirit
  - **Humility is a state of mind, not a bodily position**
- **Pray along with those who lead in prayer**
  - Not out loud, but in your mind and heart
  - As someone prays out loud, in your heart tell the Lord that you agree with what is being said
  - Try to take public prayers and make them personal to you

### ***Prayer never saved a lost sinner in the NT conversions***

- **"Sinner's Prayer" for salvation?**
  - Paul prayed and fasted for three days, and still had to be told what to do to be saved
    - Acts 9:6
  - Cornelius prayed and God sent him a preacher to tell him what he must do to be saved
    - Acts 10:47-48

## **Lesson 2 – Purpose Of Prayer – ADORATION**

### **Outline of the Purpose of Prayer**

**ADORATION**

**CONFESSIO**

**THANKSGIVING**

**SUPPLICATION**

### ***Expressing Adoration***

- God is certainly worthy of our praise, our adoration
- While we can praise God in song, we can also praise God in prayer

### ***Examples of Adoration in Prayer***

- When Paul prayed for the Ephesians, he took time to praise God
  - Ephesians 3:14-21
- David provides an example of offering adoration and praise
  - I Chronicles 29:10-13

### ***Adoration for God's Character***

- **Holiness of God**
  - Holy is being "separate"
  - He is God; there is none like Him
- Holy is about being pure
  - God is sinless and He hates sin
  - I Samuel 2:2
  - Psalm 30:4
  - Psalm 111:9
  - Psalm 145:15
  - Isaiah 6:3
  - Revelation 4:8

### ***Adoration for God's Creative Power***

- **God created the world from nothing**
  - Genesis 1:1, 3
    - "Then God said"
  - Job 38:4-40:2
  - Romans 4:17
    - Example of Abraham's Faith
  - Acts 4:24

### ***Adoration for God's Wisdom***

- **God: the source of true wisdom**
  - Job 9:1-4; Job 12:13; 28:12-28
  - Psalm 147:5
  - Isaiah 40:28
  - Romans 11:33
  - Isaiah 55:8-9

### ***Adoration for God's Grace***

- **What God gives to us even though we do not deserve it**
  - Grace: even in the Old Testament!
  - God's grace: 127 times in the Psalms
    - Psalm 136
    - His lovingkindness is everlasting!
  - Why we need God's grace
    - Romans 3:23-24; 6:23
    - Ephesians 2:4-9

### ***Adoration for God's Redemption***

- **The purchase back of something that had been lost, by the payment of a ransom. (*Easton*)**
  - Blood of Christ was offered on behalf of our sins! Redeemed
    - Ephesians 1:7-14
    - Colossians 1:13-17
    - Hebrews 9:11-15

## **Lesson 3 – Purpose of Prayer - CONFESSION**

### ***Confessing Our Sins***

- There is mercy to be found in confessing one's sins
  - Proverbs 28:13
- The Christian enjoys cleansing of sin by the blood of Jesus
  - I John 1:7-10

### ***Examples of Confessing Sins***

- Jesus provided an example in the parable of the Pharisee and the publican
  - Luke 18:10-14
- David provides an example with his confession of sin
  - Psalm 51:1-13
- Nehemiah 1:6-7
- Matthew 6:12
- I John 1:9

### ***Defining Confession***

- Confession means
  - Same word
  - To say the same thing
  - To agree
- When we confess our sin to God, we agree with God about sin

### ***What God expects in our Confession***

- Confession does **NOT** initially save a person
- Confession is **expected** by God
  - I John 1:9
- Any Christian can **DIRECTLY** confess sins to God!
- Any Christian can, and should, confess sins to one another (James 5:16)

### ***Confession shows Total Reliance on God***

- Psalm 51:1
  - Gracious
    - Mercy or pity
  - Lovingkindness
    - Goodness or compassion
  - Greatness of Your compassion
    - Tender mercy or pity



### ***Confession shows taking Responsibility for Sin***

- Psalm 51
  - My transgressions (1)
    - rebellions
  - My iniquity (2)
    - Blame or guilt
  - My sin (2)
    - Miss the mark
  - My transgressions (3)
  - My sin (3)
  - I have sinned (4)
  - I have done what is evil (4)
    - Bad or defamed
  - My sins (9)
  - My iniquities (9)
  - Blood guiltiness (14)
    - Guilt of blood or homicide

### ***Confession shows we Realize where the guilt lies***

- Psalm 51
  - Psalm 51:4
    - Against You (God)
    - You only
      - David had sinned against Bathsheba, Uriah and the nation
  - Romans 3:23
  - David accepted condemnation from God
  - God is justified (Just or righteous)
  - God is blameless (Be clean or pure)
  - God is the judge (To govern or judge)

### ***Confession brings forgiveness***

- Psalm 51
  - God blots out transgressions (1, 9)
  - God washes thoroughly (2, 7)
  - God cleanses sin (2, 7)
  - God purifies (7)
  - God hides His face from sin (9)
  - God creates a clean heart (10)
  - God renews a steadfast spirit (10)
  - God does not cast us from His presence (11)
  - God does not take His Holy Spirit from us (11)
  - God restores us to the joy of our salvation (12)
  - God sustains us with a willing spirit (12)
  - God delivers us (14)
  - God saves us (14)

## **Lesson 4 – Purpose of Prayer - THANKSGIVING**

### ***Offering Thanksgiving***

- Being thankful is emphasized repeatedly in exhortations to pray
  - Ephesians 5:20; Colossians 4:2;  
I Thessalonians 5:17-18
- The antidote to anxiety is to pray for everything, with thanksgiving
  - Philippians 4:6

### ***Examples of Offering Thanksgiving***

- Christ set an example of thanksgiving
  - Matthew 11:25; 26:27; John 6:11; 11:41
- Daniel had the custom to thank God three times a day
  - Daniel 6:10

### ***Thanksgiving is NOT:***

- Simply a meal in November
- Simply a prayer said before a meal
- Something you offer to just other people

### ***Thanksgiving and Prayer naturally go together***

- Philippians 4:6
- Colossians 4:2

### ***Thanksgiving for God's Lovingkindness***

- Psalm 106:1; 107:1
  - For He is good
- Psalm 136:1-3
  - For He is good
  - He is God of gods
  - He is Lord of lords

### ***Thanksgiving for our Victory in Christ***

- I Corinthians 15:57
  - Victory over death and the grave

### ***Thanksgiving for other Christians***

- I Corinthians 1:4
  - For the grace of God
- Philippians 1:3-5
  - For the participation in the Gospel
- Colossians 1:3-6
  - For their faith, love, and hope
- II Timothy 1:3
  - Remembering Christians in prayers
- Philemon 1:4
  - Always mentioned in prayers

### ***Thanksgiving for New Christians***

- Romans 6:17
  - You **WERE** slaves to sin
  - But you became obedient
  - To the teaching of the apostle

### ***Thanksgiving through Christ***

- Romans 1:8
  - Because of the Christian's faith
- Colossians 3:17
  - Whatever you do in word or deed
- Hebrews 13:15
  - Our sacrifice of praise

### ***Thanksgiving for Christ***

- II Corinthians 9:15
  - Indescribable gift
    - Jesus
      - Grace
      - Redemption
      - Justification
      - Promise of Heaven

### ***Thanksgiving is modeled by Christ***

- Matthew 15:36
  - Feeding the 5000 men
- Matthew 26:27
  - Lord's Supper
- John 11:41
  - Raising of Lazarus

### **Lesson 5 – Purpose of Prayer – SUPPLICATION**

#### ***Making Supplication***

- We are encouraged to let our requests be known to God
  - Philippians 4:6
- We are commanded to make supplications for all men
  - I Timothy 2:1-2
- “Real widows” are known for their supplications night and day
  - I Timothy 5:5
- Solomon made supplication at dedication of the temple
  - I Kings 8:28-29
- Jesus made supplication as He was crucified; Stephen also, as he was being stoned
  - Luke 23:34; Acts 7:59-60
- Luke 1:13
  - For a son
- Luke 2:36-38
  - To see salvation
- Romans 10:1
  - For other’s salvation
- Supplication for Christians
  - II Corinthians 1:11
  - II Corinthians 9:14
  - Ephesians 6:18
  - Philippians 1:4
- Philippians 1:19: for deliverance
- I Timothy 2:1: for all men

#### ***Defining Supplication***

- Supplication is requesting a want or need
  - Translated entreaties, prayer
  - Is always addressed to God in the NT
- Supplication is **NOT** limited to “Prayer time” on Sundays and Wednesdays
- Supplication is **NOT** simply prayers for the sick

#### ***Supplication for our Needs***

- Philippians 4:6, 19
  - Don’t be anxious
  - Make your requests known to God
- Matthew 6:33
  - God will supply all your needs

### ***Supplication for the Church***

- Matthew 6:10
  - Kingdom = the church
- II Thessalonians 3:1
  - Elders
  - Evangelists
- Deacons
- Each other

### ***Supplication for God's Will to be Done***

- Matthew 6:10
- His will on earth?
  - II Peter 3:9
    - All would come to repentance

### ***Supplication for More Laborers for Service***

- Matthew 9:38
  - People were like sheep without a shepherd
  - The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.
    - More Evangelists
    - More Elders
    - More Missionaries

### ***Supplication for Deliverance from Temptations***

- Matthew 6:13
- Mark 14:38
- Luke 8:13
  - Must be firmly rooted in the faith
- I Corinthians 10:13
  - No temptation can overcome us!

### ***Supplication for Wisdom***

- James 1:5-6
  - Ask God in faith without doubting
- Colossians 1:9-10
  - Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord
  - To please Him in all respects
  - To bear fruit in every good work
  - To increase in the knowledge of God

### ***Supplication for Forgiveness (as Christians)***

- Matthew 6:12
- Luke 18:13
- Acts 8:22
- I John 1:9

### ***Supplication for the Second Coming of Jesus***

- Revelation 22:20
  - Anticipation of heaven
  - To pray this prayer we must be ready!

## **Lesson 6 – Power of Prayer**

### ***Jesus anticipated we may become slack in believing in the Power of Prayer***

- Luke 18:1-7
  - Telling the parable of the persistent widow, that people might always pray
- Luke 18:8
  - Wondering if He would find faith on earth (people praying) when He returned

### ***Apostle Paul exhorted us to be diligent in our Prayers***

- Ephesians 6:18
- Colossians 4:2
- I Thessalonians 5:17
- *If we have become slack in our prayers, might that be an indication that we do not appreciate “The Power Of Prayer”?*

### **Examples of the Power of Prayer**

#### ***There is Forgiveness from God***

- I John 1:7-10
  - The Christian can find forgiveness through the blood of Christ
- Acts 8:22
  - An erring Christian is told to repent and pray

#### ***There is Peace from God***

- Philippians 4:6
  - The antidote to anxiety is to pray
- Philippians 4:7
  - The Christian will find their hearts and minds guarded by the peace of God

#### ***There is Strength from God***

- Ephesians 3:14-16, 20
  - Paul prayed that the Ephesians might be strengthened in the inner man
- When we need to be strong, Christians can likewise pray for themselves!

#### ***There are Opportunities from God***

- I Corinthians 3:5
  - God provided opportunities to teach others
- I Corinthians 16:9; II Corinthians 2:12
  - God often opened doors of opportunities
- Colossians 4:3
  - Prayers were requested for opportunities to continue

#### ***There is Boldness from God***

- Acts 4:23-31
  - When the apostles needed boldness, they prayed, and God delivered
- Ep 6:19-20
  - When Paul needed boldness, he asked for prayers on his behalf

### ***There is Wisdom from God***

- James 1:5-8
  - Wisdom is not knowledge, but insight that makes the best use of the knowledge
  - The Christian is promised wisdom through prayer without doubt

### ***There is Healing from God***

- James 5:14-16
  - Those who are sick should ask elders to pray for them
  - Those who have sinned should confess, and we should pray for one another

### ***There is Tranquility from God***

- Daniel 4:17; Romans 13:1-7
  - The Scriptures proclaim God has ultimate control over the nations
- I Timothy 2:1-4
  - Pray for our rulers, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life

### ***The Power of Prayer Is a blessing***

- To the one who prays in faith
- For those for whom prayers are offered

### ***The Power of Prayer Offers help in our time of need***

- Hebrews 4:14-15
  - We have a High Priest who understands our problems
- Hebrews 4:16
  - We can, at anytime, approach God boldly in prayer, to obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

### ***The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man***

- James 5:16
  - “avails much” (NKJV)
  - “can accomplish much” (NASB)
  - “has great power” (ESV)
  - “is powerful and effective” (NIV)



## **Lesson 7 – Privilege of Prayer**

### ***Privilege of Prayer Not available to all who pray***

- Proverbs 28:9
  - Some are an abomination to God
- Isaiah 59:1-2
  - Some prayers will fall on deaf ears
- I Peter 3:7
  - Some prayers will be hindered
- I Peter 3:12
  - Some prayers will not be answered favorably

### **Prayer is NOT a Privilege**

#### ***To those who will not Heed God's Word***

- Proverbs 28:9
  - Those who turn their ears from the law, their prayers are an abomination
- II Timothy 4:3-4
  - Such is the case of those who will not endure sound doctrine

#### ***To those whose Sins Separate them from God***

- Isaiah 59:1-2
  - Sins can separate one from God so He will not hear
- Romans 6:23
  - Such is the condition of those who will not seek God's forgiveness

#### ***To those who Fail to Treat Others Justly***

- Psalm 41:1-3
  - Who fail to consider the poor
- Malachi 2:13-14; I Peter 3:7
  - Who fail to treat their wives right
- Matthew 5:23-24
  - Who fail to make things right with those they have offended
- Matthew 18:21-35
  - Who fail to forgive those who sinned against them

#### ***To those who Pray Without Faith***

- Hebrews 11:6
  - Without faith it is impossible to please God
- James 1:5-8
  - Asking with doubt in our hearts ensures failure

## Prayer is a Privilege

### ***To the Sinner Seeking Truth and Righteousness***

- **Example of Cornelius**
  - Acts 10:1-2; 11:14
    - He was a good man, but still in need of salvation
  - Acts 10:4,31
    - His prayers and alms had been noticed by God
  - Acts 11:14
    - God saw to it that he had an opportunity to hear the words whereby he could be saved – the gospel of Christ
- God heard the prayer of a sinner like Cornelius
  - Matthew 5:6
    - Who was hungering and thirsting for righteousness
  - Matthew 7:7-8
    - Who was asking, seeking, knocking
  - God provided heard his prayer

### ***To the Christian with Jesus as their High Priest***

- **Jesus has become our High Priest**
- Hebrews 2:17-18
  - Jesus is a merciful and faithful high priest, able to aid His brethren
- Hebrews 4:14-16
  - Jesus makes it possible to approach God's throne boldly
- Hebrews 7:25
  - Jesus is able to save to the uttermost, since He ever lives to intercede

### ***To the Christian with Jesus as their High Priest***

- **Jesus has become our Advocate and Mediator**
- I John 2:1
  - Jesus is our advocate with the Father
- I Timothy 2:5
  - Jesus is the one mediator between God and man
- Romans 8:34
  - Jesus makes intercession for us at the right hand of God

## **Lesson 8 – Principles of Prayer**

### **We Must Pray in Faith**

#### ***Prayer Requires Faith in God***

- Matthew 21:22
  - “And all things, whatever you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.”
- James 1:5-8
  - Without faith, prayer will not be answered
- Hebrews 11:6
  - That He is, and is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him
- Romans 10:17
  - Such faith comes from the Word of God

### **We Must Pray with Humility**

#### ***Humility before God***

- Isaiah 57:15; 66:1-2
  - A virtue highly valued by God
- Psalm 34:18
  - The Lord is near, and saves those with contrite spirits
- Proverbs 3:34
  - He gives grace to the humble

#### ***Humility in Prayer***

- Luke 18:9-14
  - Exemplified in the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector
- Luke 18:14; James 4:10
  - Humility leads to exaltation by God
- With faith and humility before God, we are prepared to pray

#### ***God’s Will and our Prayers***

- I John 5:14
  - Prayers are answered favorably if we ask “according to His will”
- James 4:3
  - Prayers more concerned with our will than God’s are turned down

#### ***His Will be Done***

- Matthew 6:9-10
  - Jesus taught us to pray this way
- Luke 22:42
  - Jesus prayed in garden at Gethsemane
- John 4:34
  - Such praying is made easier when our will is to do God’s will

### **We Must Pray with Thanksgiving**

### ***Prayer and Thanksgiving***

- Ephesians 5:20
  - “giving thanks always for all things to God”
- Philippians 4:6
  - “in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving”
- Colossians 4:2
  - “...prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving”
- I Thessalonians 5:17-18
  - “pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks”

### ***The Attitude of Gratitude***

- Psalm 100:4; Colossians 3:15
  - God’s people were always to be thankful
- Romans 1:21; II Timothy 3:2
  - Ingratitude an indication of apostasy

### **We Must Pray in the Name of Jesus**

#### ***Praying in the Name of Jesus***

- John 14:13-14; 16:23
  - Taught by Jesus Himself to His disciples
- Ephesians 5:20
  - Commanded by Paul to the Christians at Ephesus
- Means more than simply adding “in Jesus’ name” at the end of our prayers
- John 14:6
  - We acknowledge Jesus as the only way by which we can approach God
- Hebrews 7:24-25; John 14:13
  - We recognize Him as our “high priest” who intercedes for us

### **Value of the Bible to these principles**

- Faith comes from the Word of God
- Humility is learned by reading the Word of God
- Knowing the will of God is impossible without the Word of God
- Thanksgiving is made easier when we read of our blessings in the Word of God
- The importance Jesus as our High Priest is revealed in the Word of God

## **Lesson 9 – Persistence of Prayer**

### **Teachings of Persistence in Prayer**

#### ***Parable of the Persistent Friend***

- Luke 11:1
  - Told in connection with a request for teaching on prayer
- Luke 11:2-4
  - Following instruction providing a model for prayer
- Luke 11:5-8
  - The parable itself, easy enough to understand
- Luke 11:9-10
  - Followed with an emphasis on being persistent in asking, seeking, knocking

#### ***Parable of the Persistent Widow***

- Luke 18:1
  - Told that men always ought to pray and not lose heart
- Luke 18:2-5
  - The parable itself, illustrating the value of persistent requests
- Luke 18:6-8a
  - Adding that God will certainly heed His chosen who cry out day and night
- Luke 18:8b
  - Followed by concern for whether such faith will be found when He returns

#### ***Teaching of Paul***

- Romans 12:12
  - “... continuing steadfastly in prayer”
- Ephesians 6:18
  - “praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints”
- Colossians 4:2
  - “Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving”
- I Thessalonians 5:17
  - “pray without ceasing”

#### **Examples of Persistence in Prayer**

##### ***Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane***

- Matthew 26:36-39
  - When deeply distressed over His impending suffering
- Matthew 26:40-44
  - While His closest disciples slept, he prayed three times
- Matthew 26:45-47
  - In which He received the necessary help to face what lay ahead
- Luke 22:41-44
  - Strengthened by an angel
  - Heard by God, though His actual request was not answered - Hebrews 5:7

### ***Paul and His Thorn in the Flesh***

- II Corinthians 11:30-33; 12:7,10; Judges 2:3
  - Paul endured the infirmity of persecution
- II Corinthians 12:8
  - He prayed three times that it might be removed
- It was not removed, but the Lord provided
- II Corinthians 12:9
  - Sufficient grace and the strength of Christ to endure
- II Corinthians 12:10
  - Enabling him to even take pleasure in his infirmities

### ***Prayers of the Early Christians***

- Acts 2:42
  - The church in Jerusalem continued steadfastly in prayer
- Acts 12:5,12
  - When Peter was imprisoned, constant prayer was offered for him
- Colossians 4:12
  - Epaphras labored fervently in prayer for his brethren at Colossae
- I Timothy 5:5
  - Widows were assumed to be devoted to prayer
  - Like Anna – Luke 2:36-37

### ***Lessons Learned***

- The importance of persistence cannot be overemphasized
  - Persistence in general
    - *Keep praying!*
  - Persistence in particular
    - *Don't ask just once!*
- Persistence does not ensure God answers the way we may desire
  - Jesus still had to drink the cup of suffering by going to the cross
  - Paul still had to bear his thorn in the flesh by enduring persecution for Christ
- Persistence in prayer is key to receiving answers we need
  - Grace and mercy to help in time of need
  - Strength to endure whatever it is we must face

## Lesson 10 – Practice of Prayer

### How to Pray

#### *Model Prayer*

- Luke 11:1
  - Jesus was asked by His disciples how to pray
  - They had just witnessed Jesus praying
  - They knew John the Baptist had taught his disciples to pray
  - While they had prayed as Jews, they recognized a need to learn more
- Luke 11:2-4
  - In response, Jesus offered a model
  - Commonly called “The Lord’s Prayer”, also found in Matthew 6:9-13
  - It was intended to serve as a model (“In this manner...”) - Matthew 6:9

#### *Proper Prayer*

- Matthew 6:9
  - Addresses God the Father
  - “Our Father in heaven”
- Matthew 6:9
  - Expresses reverence toward God
  - “Hallowed be Your Name”
- Includes supplication:
  - Matthew 6:10
    - God’s purposes
    - “Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”
  - Includes supplication:
  - Matthew 6:11
    - Our physical needs
    - “Give us this day our daily bread.”
  - Matthew 6:12
    - Our spiritual needs
    - “And forgive us our debts...”
  - Matthew 6:12
    - The spiritual needs of others
    - “...as we forgive our debtors.”
  - Matthew 6:13
    - Guidance and help in our struggle against sin and Satan
    - “And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”
- Praises God
  - Matthew 6:13
    - “For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen”

## ***Lessons from the Model Prayer***

- Matthew 6:7-8
  - Simplicity in prayers
- Matthew 6:14-15
  - Forgiving others
- Luke 12:5-10
  - Persistence in prayers

## **When to Pray**

### ***Scheduled Prayers***

- Having set times to pray can help develop a habit of prayer
- OT men of God with scheduled prayer times
  - Psalm 55:17
    - David, whom God described as “a man after My own heart”
  - Daniel 6:10
    - Daniel, whom the angel of God described as “O man greatly beloved”
- They made it a habit to pray at set times during the day
  - It would not hurt to imitate them
  - Praying three times daily: morning, noon, and evening

### ***Spontaneous Prayers***

- Prayers should not be limited to set times
  - Luke 6:12-13
    - Jesus spent all night in prayer before selecting His apostles
  - Acts 16:25
    - Paul and Silas prayed when faced with trying circumstances
  - Nehemiah 2:4-5
    - Nehemiah prayed silently on the spur of the moment
  - I Chronicles 5:20
    - The Israelites prayed to God in the heat of battle
- Having scheduled times to pray will develop experience in prayer
- Praying spontaneously will develop a disposition to pray in every circumstance
- Together, they help us reach the goal of praying without ceasing



## With Whom to Pray

### *Praying Alone*

- Matthew 6:5-6
  - Jesus encouraged the practice of praying in secret
  - Private prayer cultivates our spiritual nature through regular exercise
- “Prayer is the spiritual gymnasium in which we exercise and practice godliness.” - V. L. Crawford
- “The man who prays grows; and the muscles of the soul swell from this whipcord to iron bands.” - Frederick B. Meyer
- The opposite is also true: “Seven days without prayer makes one weak.” - Allan E. Bartlette
- Private prayer forms a close union and fellowship with our Heavenly Father
  - It is just you and God
  - Time spent together strengthens the bond of fellowship
- Private prayer is a true test of your sincerity and devotion
  - You certainly are not doing it to please men
    - They cannot see you
  - You can’t be trying to falsely impress God
    - He will see right through you
- Matthew 6:6
  - Private prayer will be rewarded “openly”
    - The answers to our prayer will be seen by others
    - Both here and in the hereafter

### *Praying with Others*

- Jesus also spoke of praying with others
- Matthew 18:19-20
  - Where the requests of two or three are answered by our Father in heaven
- Romans 8:34
  - For in their midst is Jesus Himself, who also intercedes for them
- Early Christians prayed together often
- Acts 4:23-24; 12:5,12; 16:25
  - In times of trouble
- Acts 20:36; 21:5
  - In times of departure
- Immediate blessings when God’s people pray together
  - A sweetness of fellowship
  - A sense of strength
- *Praying with others should be done whenever possible*

## For What to Pray

### *Self*

- Matthew 6:11
  - For physical daily needs
- Colossians 1:9-12
  - For personal growth in Christ-likeness and devotion to God

### *Family*

- For spouse, children, parents, siblings, etc.
- Ephesians 6:4
  - For their nurture and growth in the teaching of the Lord

### *Community*

- Jeremiah 29:7
  - For peace to prevail

### *Church*

- John 13:35; 17:20-21
  - For love and unity to prevail
- Philippians 1:9-11
  - For the spiritual growth of each member
- II Thessalonians 3:1
  - For the gospel to have free course

### *Nation*

- Psalm 33:12; Proverbs 14:34
  - For national repentance and consciousness of who God is
- I Timothy 2:2
  - For leaders to rule wisely

### *Non-Believers*

- Romans 10:1
  - For their salvation
- Ephesians 6:18-20
  - For the effort of those involved in teaching them

### *Sick*

- James 5:14-15
  - For their restoration to health
- James 5:16
  - For spiritual strength and peace of mind

### *Poor and Oppressed*

- Proverbs 29:7
  - Such as the homeless, fatherless, unborn children
  - Those in other nations oppressed by their own rulers or outside influences

## **Prayer Strategy**

### ***Monday – Pray for Family***

- Pray for both immediate and extended family members
- For both their physical and spiritual well-being

### ***Tuesday – Pray for the Church***

- For members in the local congregation
- For Christians and congregations throughout the world

### ***Wednesday – Pray for the Community***

- For community leaders
- For your neighbors

### ***Thursday – Pray for the Nation***

- For elected officials
- For efforts to bring peace and righteousness

### ***Friday – Pray for the World***

- For world peace
- For nations that are closed to the gospel

### ***Saturday – Pray for the Afflicted***

- For the poor, homeless, jobless
- For those in prison
- For those who are sick
- For widows, single mothers, fatherless children

### ***For One Day***

- Morning - Family
- Noon - Church
- Evening - Community

### ***Suggestions***

- Help to provide some direction in your prayer life
- Develop a strategy that suits you
- One might also keep a list or journal of those for whom you are praying

### ***The important thing is to PRAY, and to do so:***

- “always”
- “in everything”
- “earnestly”
- “being vigilant”
- “without ceasing”

## **Lesson 11 – God’s Answer to Prayers**

### **Four Ways God Answers Prayers**

#### ***Request Granted***

- God May Answer “Yes”
  - Psalm 118:5; 138:3
    - God often grants the petitions we ask of Him
  - Matthew 6:33; Proverbs 3:5-10
    - Especially when we put Him first in our lives
- For God to Answer “Yes”
  - I John 5:14
    - We must ask according to His will
  - I John 3:22
    - We must be doing His will in our lives

#### ***Request Granted, But Not Yet***

- God May Answer “Yes, but Wait”
  - Ecclesiastes 3:1,11
    - God may grant our request, but in time and according to His purpose
  - Luke 18:7
    - We may think God is saying “No”, when He is really saying “Yes, but wait”
- When the Answer Seems to be “Wait”
  - Hebrews 6:10-12
    - Have patience
  - Luke 11:8-10
    - Keep asking, seeking and knocking
  - Romans 8:24
    - Remember God’s promise

#### ***Request Granted, But Not as Expected***

- God May Answer “Yes, But Not as You Think”
  - Sometimes God answers in a way differently than we may anticipate
  - Isaiah 55:8,9
    - His thoughts and methods are much different than ours
- If we ask God for strength and perseverance:
  - Philippians 1:29-30
    - He may give us trials to bear
  - Romans 5:3-4
    - Which in turn develops the virtues we prayed for
- We Must Not Limit God’s Options
  - We should be careful and not dictate to God how to answer our prayers
  - Ephesians 3:20
    - There are forces at work beyond what we can imagine
  - Romans 8:26
    - We do not always know what to pray for as we ought

### ***Request Denied***

- God May Answer “No”
  - James 4:3
    - There may be times when God denies our requests
  - Hebrews 12:5-11
    - We must trust that God, who knows what is best
- When God Seems to Say “No”
  - Habakkuk 3:17-19
    - We may not fully understand, but we can still fully trust Him
  - I Corinthians 10:13
    - Especially considering God’s promise

### ***However God chooses to Answer Our Prayers***

- We can have confidence it will be for our good
- We should never grow weary in praying to God

## **Lesson 12 – Prayer Life of Jesus**

Adapted from a lesson by Tommy Kelton

### **Some Prayers of Jesus**

- Luke 3:21
  - As He began His ministry, after His baptism
- Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16
  - During His early Galilean ministry
- Luke 6:12-13
  - Before He chose the twelve apostles
- Luke 9:18-20
  - Before Peter's good confession
- Luke 9:28-29
  - At the transfiguration
- Luke 10:21; Matthew 11:25
  - Thanked God He had revealed His will to babes
- Luke 11:1
  - Prayed before the disciples asked Him to teach them to pray
- Matthew 6:5-15; Luke 11:2-4
  - Taught His disciples to pray
- Matthew 14:23
  - Prayed at the feeding the 5,000
- Mark 8:6
  - Christ prayed at feeding the 4,000
- John 11:41-42
  - Prayed at the resurrection of Lazarus
- John 12:27
  - Prayed in His hour of trial
- John 17:1-26
  - Prayed for self, disciples and all believers
- Matthew 26:26-27
  - Prayed at the last supper
- Luke 22:31-32
  - Prayed for Peter
- Matthew. 26:36-46; Luke 22:39-46;  
Mark 14:32-42
  - Prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane
- Matthew 27:46; Luke 23:34,46
  - Prayed at the cross

### Observations about the Prayers of Jesus

- Luke 3:21-22; 6:12-13; 9:18-21; Mark 1:35-38
  - Prayed before great events and crises
- Matthew 14:23; John 6:15
  - Prayed after achievements and crises
- Matthew 26:36
  - Prayed before temptations of His life
- Luke 5:15-16
  - Prayed when life was unusually busy
- Luke 10:21-22
  - Prayed in time of deep joy
- Mark 14:33-42
  - Prayed in time of deep anguish
- Matthew 14:19; 26:26; Mark 8:6; John 6:11
  - Gave thanks when food was served
- Mark 1:35; Luke 6:12
  - Prayed early in the morning and late at night
- Luke 9:29; Mark 6:46; Luke 9:18; Matthew 14:23
  - Prayed with His disciples, but mostly alone

### What Jesus Taught about Prayer

- Mark 9:29
  - Casting out evil spirits
- Luke 18:1
  - Disciples need to pray always and not lose heart
- John 14:16
  - Jesus prayed for the Comforter to come
- Luke 22:31-32
  - Jesus prayed for Peter
- John 17:1-26
  - Jesus prayed for Himself, His disciples and those of who believe through their word
- Luke 10:2
  - Taught to pray for the Lord of harvest to send forth laborers