



Teach us to Pray - Pray to the Father who resides in Heaven

Sunday Sermon – 1/19/2025

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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." 2 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. 3 Give us day by day our daily bread. 4 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."**

The greatest book ever written on prayer is the Bible, with Jesus Christ as its most significant contributor.

Jesus showed us how and taught us how to pray in the bible. *If anyone knows how to pray, Jesus knows how to pray.*

We must remember that when the disciples made this request, they were not ignorant of prayer. They grew up in a Jewish culture, attending synagogues where they heard people pray. They were familiar with the Psalms, much of which is prayer set to music, as well as the writings of the Torah and the prophets.

Yes, Jewish children are taught to pray. The Shema, a statement of God's oneness, is often the first prayer children learn.

- *Early age: Children are taught to recite blessings and basic prayers as soon as they can speak.*
- *Age three: Children are taught the Aleph-Bet and to recite blessings over food.*
- *Age of talking: Children are taught the first verse of the Shema and the verse "Torah tziva lanu Moshe".*
- *Age of maturity: Children are taught to value each mitzvah and its connection to God.*

Asking Jesus to teach them to pray would not be something unusual for a disciple to ask a Rabbi.

Jesus taught us how to pray for the new dispensation that was to come and for our role in it.

The Disciples knew that for them to get results like Jesus, they needed to learn to pray like Him.

What we call the Lord's prayer is actually a prayer Jesus outlined/patterned for Believers to follow concerning Prayer. **(Matthew 6, Luke 11)**

Luke 11:1 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."

The pattern/outline prayer that Jesus is teaching is to be primarily used for Private time prayer.

Matthew 6:6 But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray.



Three essentials we must do to learn to pray as Jesus taught.

1. Seek God's guidance to instill in you a desire to learn the art of prayer.
2. Request His guidance to discipline you in following His prayer pattern, respecting the right priorities and protocols.
3. Most importantly, pray for the longing that makes prayer a cherished practice rather than a mere obligation.

Jesus taught us to pray in a specific way; if it didn't matter how we prayed, He wouldn't have done so. Jesus valued meaningful communication, avoiding wasted time with empty words or suggestions.

Prayer is a Learned Discipline.

Prayer is a learned Discipline that must be desired. There is a wise way to pray, and we must discipline ourselves in prayer principles.

*The Bible says in **James 1:5** If any of you lacks wisdom, (meaning wisdom in any area) **let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally.***

Jesus's disciples were willing for Jesus to teach them the art of prayer so they could get the best results.

Jesus's prayer model is Kingdom first, then us.

Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

We know that praying is a discipline that must be learned because before Jesus taught the pattern of prayer in Matthew chapter 6, He instructed people on the Do's and Don'ts of prayer.

Let's look at the first thing we "should not do" when we pray.

1. **You shall not be like the hypocrites.** Prayer should never be a performance. It's about motive and then know-how.
2. **And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.**

So many people miss what this verse is saying. It is not saying you can't repeat yourself when you pray.

Vain Repetitions - Much talk without proper content, speaking selfishly without a clear God-given purpose. Using vain words from a place of misguided intentions.

Prayer is the thoughtful way we connect our minds and souls with God. When we pray, we should not think we are impressing God or telling Him what to do.

The "Do's" concerning prayer

1. We should pray and pray often. **Matthew 6:5 "And when you pray",**



2. Have a prepared place for you and God to meet. **6 But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.**

When we create a special place for prayer, reduce distractions as much as possible. God wants your full attention during this time. He promises to show His presence in a special way and will reward you in a way that others will see.

3. Pray with confidence. **8 ... For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.**

What Jesus is saying here, life is more than about material things, so when you approach God in prayer, our prayer should be more than about material things.

- A. We must trust God that He knows our desires and needs!!!
- B. We must know our value to God and that we are a key component in His overall plan.
- C. We must come to God knowing that He has and wants the best for us!

1 John 5:14-15 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

When we follow the proper pattern, order, and protocol and pray according to His will, we are all assured of getting a response from God.

The Pattern of Prayer that Jesus Taught.

The eight topics Jesus taught in teaching people the proper way to pray.

1. **Pray to the Father in Heaven.**
2. **Bless the name of Jesus.** (*praise God for who He is and thanks Him for what He does*)
3. **Pray for the Kingdom of God to come.** (for Jesus to rule in the hearts of humanity and physically here on the earth).
4. **Pray that His will is done on earth as it is in Heaven.**
5. **Pray that God will give us daily everything we need.**
6. **Ask God to Forgive us of our sins, grant us the capability to forgive others, and renew our minds so that we won't be repeat offenders.**
7. **And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from evil or the evil one.**
8. **Bless God for allowing us to be a vital part of His overall plan.**

Matthew 6:9 says In this manner, therefore, pray. Luke 11:2: "When you pray, say:

What we call the Lord's Prayer is Jesus teaching His disciples the priority and content of private time prayer.

God wants to hear us speak to him in our private time of prayer.

Jesus is teaching his disciples how to pray, emphasizing what to say.

What we say in prayer is vitally important as to how God moves.



With that in mind, there is time for private meditation. This is what the bible has in mind when it tells us to pray without ceasing.

Proper meditation on God's word keeps peace.

Isaiah 26:3 You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.

As we look at Jesus's prayer outline, we notice the first topic He emphasized was not to start with repentance or a request. He didn't emphasize to start with thanksgiving or praise.

According to Jesus, in these two different scriptural references (**Matthew 6 and Luke 11**), Prayer starts with acknowledging who we are praying to and where He resides.

Our Father in heaven, (Know who you are praying to)

Our prayers are more effective when we can identify with whom we are praying. So, who is our Father in Heaven?

God the Father is the title given to God as the first person of the Trinity. God the Father is the creator, ruler, and preserver of all things, and He is perfect, all-powerful, all-knowing, and He exists in all places at all times. And He sits enthroned in the highest place in the Heavens.

Let's look at some scripture references to verify.

1 Corinthians 8:6 Yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

Ephesians 4:6 One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,

Matthew 23:9 And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven.

This verse is not saying that we don't honor our natural parents, but we honor, cherish and respect our relationship with our Heavenly Father above all.

What is His character and nature? Jesus said in **John 14:9**, "**He who has seen Me has seen the Father.**"

The more we know about Jesus Christ's nature and character from the word of God, the more intimately we can connect with God as our Father.

Study Scripture and seek God's insight into the true nature of Jesus and the Father. Avoid depending on rumors or your own assumptions about them.

Praying effectual fervent prayers is not just about speaking; it is a heartfelt dialogue that embodies communication infused with love and genuine affection from both parties involved.

We know that God is love and has love and affection for us; the question is, do we have it for Him?

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While God the Father knows us intimately, including our flaws, the more important question is whether we truly know Him as our Father and understand His heart, intentions, and purpose for our lives.

This understanding helps us build a meaningful relationship rooted in faith and trust, which should be one of our motivations for private prayer.

It is just as important for us to learn how the Father views us as it is for us to understand how we should view Him.

The more we know about who we are in Christ, the better we can approach and commune with Father God.

In Christ, we are the Father's beloved. In Christ, we have an inheritance. In Christ, we are justified as though we have never sinned. Despite our flaws, God does not see us as flawed in Christ. We are royalty, and we can rule with His authority and power. This is how the Father sees us.

The question is, have you come to understand the reality of who you are?

The more we understand ourselves as God sees us, the more it transforms our approach and priorities in prayer.

Once we know in our hearts how the Father views us as His spiritual children, we will never come to God begging him for anything!