

LIVING BY FAITH
“Lord, Teach Us to Pray”
Luke 11:1-13

Aim: To encourage believers to pray biblically

Introduction

In our endeavor to live by faith, we need to remember two key elements:

1. The Word of God – God speaking to us
2. Prayer – Our speaking to Him

Christ expected his disciples to be in the Word – John 15:7

Christ expected his disciples to pray – Mark 11:25

We have a two-way relationship with God as our Father.

1. REQUEST OF THE DISCIPLE – LUKE 11:1

One of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.”

Have you ever prayed this prayer?

Most of us learn to pray by listening, rather than being instructed on the “how to.” – “More is caught than taught.”

A. Background of the disciple’s request

- 1) Jesus’ example in praying
Luke 3:21 - *while He prayed*
Luke 9:18 - *prayed alone, with His disciples*
Luke 9:28, 29 – *as he prayed*
- 2) Others’ examples in praying
Luke 2:37 – *worship by prayer* (Anna, the prophetess)
Luke 6:12 – *pray to God* (focus on God)

B. Specific teaching of Jesus on how to pray

Conditions for answer to prayer:

Ask if two are in agreement (unity) – Matt. 18:19

Ask believing – Matt.21:22; Mark 11:24

Ask in the Name of Jesus – John 14:13,14

Ask while abiding in Christ and his Word is abiding in us – John 15:7

Ask according to His will – 1 John 5:14

2. MODEL OF PRAYER ACCORDING TO JESUS – Luke 11:2-4

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.”

Three elements of prayer:

- Adoration
- Confession
- Petition

3. CHARACTER OF PRAYER - Luke 11:5-13

5 And He said to them, “Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves; 6 for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; 7 and he will answer from within and say, ‘Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you’? 8 I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs. 9 “So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 11 If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

- a. Approach God from the standpoint of a friend. (5-8)
- b. Approach God from the standpoint of one in need. (6)
- c. Approach God from the standpoint of only Him fulfilling your expectations. (5,8)
- d. Approach God persistently for your needs (8)
- e. Approach God with confidence (13)

Summary

Our heavenly Father desires us to persistently approach Him as a friend, with confidence expecting our petitions to be fulfilled. And we need to be sure our petitions are scripturally sound.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Phil 4:6