

Luke 11:1-4

¹Now 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.”

²So 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.

³Give us day by day our daily bread.

⁴And 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 Holy Bible, New King James Version Matthew 6:5-13

⁵“And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. ⁶But 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. ⁷And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen *do*. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

⁸“Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. ⁹In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.

¹⁰Your kingdom come.

Your will be done

On earth as *it is* in heaven.

¹¹Give us this day our daily bread.

¹²And forgive us our debts,

As we forgive our debtors.

¹³And do not lead us into temptation,

But deliver us from the evil one.

•For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

I want to encourage you in your prayer life saints. It is so very important and too often we let the business of life push it away totally or it is only used in cases of dire emergency. Let's look in the Word at Luke 11:1-4 and Matthew 6:9-13.

The disciples knew about prayer! They were Jewish and prayer to the Lord was a part of their daily life. They wanted Jesus to teach them to pray like He did. They were constantly around Him and saw the life of God. They saw and felt that His prayers were different! His prayers were full of life, power, and peace. They were an intimate conversation with the Father.

Jesus wanted them and wants us to have prayer as a constant part of our lives. He does not want us to get caught up in the traps of empty religion and selfish babbling. So before He shared the prayer in Matthew 6, He showed us what prayer is NOT suppose to look like. **Let's read Matthew 6:1-8.**

We see several things from this passage.

1. God wants **submission** in prayer. He wants us to pray to Him for His glory, His will, His provision, and His reward. The hypocrites pray to be heard by men and get their reward that way. They do it for their own glory. They want to make God bend to their selfish requests. They want to be on the throne and to have God as their servant. God says their reward already has come when they are seen and praised by men. God says in **James 4:2-3 "You have not, because you ask not. You ask, and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may consume it on your own lusts."** The Lord wants us to ask, seek and knock, but not to do so that our own selfish wants are fulfilled. Prayer is a wartime walkie-talkie used to call in reinforcements, ask for marching orders, and reporting on the condition of the soldiers. It is NOT an intercom use to buzz our butler for more lemonade as we sit on the patio!
2. God wants **secrecy or seclusion** in prayer. He wants us to pray to be heard by Him. He wants us to pull ourselves out of the public places and in to the quiet ones where we can focus on Him and lift up our requests. The time we spend in our prayer closet is time in the presence of the Lord. I know we cannot always go to another place or get away totally. The prayer closet for the Jews is under a prayer shawl and some times that prayer takes place with others around and some times alone. The point is that we turn our senses, our focus, and our thoughts away from the world and towards the Lord. He hears our requests in the private place and rewards by moving in the public place. Let me give you an example. All revivals in the Church have started from the prayers of a group and sometimes even ONE person praying in private. The power of private prayer is the lifeblood of faith in public ministry. God honors the prayer of a faithful saint and hundreds and thousands of people come to the Lord, missionaries are kept safe from attack, and ministers can shepherd their congregations.
3. God wants **sincerity** in prayer. The heathen pray the same thing over and over to try to be heard. Buddhism has prayer wheels and flags. They feel that as these wheels turn prayers are said and as the wind moves the flags prayers are sent up. They feel that those things along with their repetitious prayers will add up and will some how wake up their gods to their needs. God tells us that He already knows our thoughts. We don't have to endlessly repeat things to be heard. We don't have to send our message through anyone but Jesus. He is our High priest and we now have direct access to God through Him! He doesn't want repetition,

but He does want us to ask, seek and knock. He knows our thoughts and requests, but He wants a relationship with us. When we come to Him, sincerely, and ask of Him and listen to Him, we are building a relationship with our Daddy! Prayer is a two-way conversation. It is a place to learn about and experience true love and true intimacy with the Lord of the universe.

After Jesus teaches us about what prayer is not supposed to look like then, he teaches us what it is suppose to look like. He gave us a model and a starting point. He desires us to pray His word and this prayer is His word. He wants us to pray with life, creativity, and fire for Him, so that our prayers do not become like those of the heathen.

Our Father in Heaven: God is our Father someone who loves us and wants only the best for us. He is in Heaven and time, circumstances, and all other forces are below Him and under His control. We need to start our prayers by recognizing Whom we are praying to, how much He loves us, and that He is in total control.

Hallowed by Your name: He is hallowed, holy, and worthy to be praised. Our prayers are to be worship of the Holy God we love and serve.

Your Kingdome come, Your will be done. On Earth as it is in Heaven: We desire that the Lord's will and kingdom come. We want to be a instrument He can move through and use to bring it to pass in all of creation.

Give us this day our daily bread: We recognize that God alone is our provider. The earth is His and everything on it belongs to Him. We desire provision for THIS day. We are not guaranteed tomorrow and we do not need to worry about it either. He is faithful to provide today's bread and that tells us He will be faithful to provide tomorrow's bread.

Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors: We need forgiveness for our debts our sins against the Lord and against others. When God forgives us then we need to forgive ourselves. If God had forgiven us and forgotten our sins, why shouldn't we walk in that forgiveness? We cannot walk in that forgiveness if we are holding others in debt. We have to forgive and show God's grace to them.

And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one: We need to keep our eyes on the Lord and walk in His way. He will show us the path through His word, prayer, and by His voice. If we follow Him we will be lead out of temptation and out of the snares of the Devil, but we have to focus on God.

For Yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever and every! Amen: It is God's Kingdom we are a part of and serve in. We serve only by His power, strength, wisdom, and grace not our own. It is all for His glory and praise and that will NEVER change.

I challenge each of you to spend time daily with your Daddy in prayer. Focus your all on Him. Crawl up in His lap and dwell with Him. Tell Him your needs, requests, frustrations, and circumstances. Then listen and wait for His answer in prayer and in His word. Don't get caught up in trying to sound elegant or holy. Speak to Him whole heartily. He knows your heart and your words will not get in the way of Him listening to you. HE LOVES YOU! Pray, because it is one of the sweetest ways to get to know the heart and mind of your heavenly Father.