

Welcome To Sunday Night Bible Fellowship



"We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ." Col 1:28



"How Is Your Prayer Life?"

Part 1

Luke 11:1-13

Feb. 26, 2023

Luke 11:1-13

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2 And He said to them, "When you pray, say:

'Father, hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come.

3 'Give us each day our daily bread.

4 'And forgive us our sins,

For we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

And lead us not into temptation."

1 It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples."

"happened" – γινομαι – came about, occurred. Does not mean something haphazard took place.

- The disciples observed that the prayers of Jesus were different. 25 times Jesus prayed in the Bible.
- Watching someone else pray can be very helpful . . . as long as they are praying biblically.
- They had also observed that John the Baptist prayed differently.
- This is an important principle: The depth of one's spiritual life determines the depth of one's prayer life.
- Notice here that Jesus is not going to say, " Praying is no big deal. Just say what you want. The Father will understand."

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2 And He said to them, "When you pray, say:

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- There are approx. 650 prayers recorded in the Bible.
- I want you to notice the things that Jesus did not say about prayer:

Not a Place – people in the Bible prayed everywhere – outside, inside, in a building, in the open, in a pit, on a mountain, at an execution, in a valley, in a closet, in prison, in the streets, in a house, on a housetop, on a ship, by a river, by the sea, in a whale, in bed, in a desert, by themselves, in groups, on a cross, in a garden, in a cave, upper room, absolutely everywhere.

Not a Posture – people in the Bible prayed in all different postures – sitting, standing, kneeling, on their face, on their back, head down, head up, hands up, hands down, beating their breast, on their stomach, eyes open, eyes closed, mouth open, mouth closed - all different postures.

Not a Time – people in the Bible prayed at all different times – in the morning, at noon, in the afternoon, in the evening, at night, when discouraged, when rejoicing, when persecuted, when Israel gathered together, the church gathered together - all different times.

Psalm 121:4 Behold, He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

2 And He said to them, "When you pray, say:

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- This is a framework for prayer. It was not designed to be memorized and recited personally or in a group setting. The fact that the account in Matt. and the account in Luke are different, shows that the prayer was not meant to be memorized or be a ritual. They were given at different times, only meant to serve as an example to be followed. Nowhere in the NT do you see this prayer repeated by any believer.

Matthew 6:9-13	Luke 11:2-4
Our Father who art in heaven	Father
Hallowed be Thy name	Hallowed be Thy name
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven	Thy kingdom come
Give us this day our daily bread	Give us each day our daily bread
And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors	And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us
And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil	And lead us not into temptation
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen	

"There does not seem to be any valid reason for supposing that He meant it to be repeated frequently, or as part of a service of prayer or worship, as it is commonly used today. No mention is made of its use in the early Christian assemblies of the book of Acts, nor is it even referred to in the Epistles....Now that the Holy Spirit has come to guide us in our supplications, it would seem needlessly formal to be bound to use the exact words we have here when we come to God either in public or in private devotions."

- Harry Ironside

"One often hears someone begin a prayer with "Dear Jesus..." Although that is certainly not heretical, in fairness and in a desire to pray as Jesus teaches, it should be emphasized that Scripture does not instruct believers to pray to the Lord Jesus Christ or to the Holy Spirit."

- Bruce Hurt

2 And He said to them, "When you pray, say:

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- This is a God-centered prayer. The prayer is divided into 6 parts: The first 3 are about the person of God and the last 3 are about man's needs.
- What is important in our prayers?

1. We pray to our Father.

- We don't pray to Mary, or any saints, or any angel, or anyone who has died.
- Jesus here does not say to pray to Him, but to the Father.

2 And He said to them, "When you pray, say:

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- We pray to the Father because we are His children.
- God is called "Father" sixty-five times in Matthew, Mark and Luke and 100 times in the gospel of John.

Rom 8:15

15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "**Abba! Father!**"

Gal 4:6

6 Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "**Abba! Father!**"

- "Abba" is an endearing term that shows tenderness, kindness, and care toward His children.

2 And He said to them, "When you pray, say:

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- The concept of praying to the Father would be different for the disciples.
- Only 2 places in the OT is God referred to as "father:"

Isa 63:16

For You are our Father, though Abraham does not know us
And Israel does not recognize us.
You, O Lord, are our Father,
Our Redeemer from of old is Your name.

Deut 32:6

6 "Do you thus repay the Lord,
O foolish and unwise people?
Is not He your Father who has bought you?
He has made you and established you.

- Personal, meaningful prayer had nearly disappeared in Israel. What existed was dry, meaningless repetition.
- There are only 2 kinds of children in the world: 1. children of the Devil (Jn. 8:44) and 2. children of God (Jn. 1:12)
- Prayers given by the children of the Devil go nowhere, regardless how fervent or passionate they are.

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3. God's kingdom should be the longing desire of every believer.

"Your kingdom come" – God's kingdom is His sovereign rulership in 2 spheres:

1. The heart of an individual.
2. The coming physical kingdom in the Millennium.

- Everything will change.
- We long for the day when Christ will rule in His kingdom here on this earth and we pray to that end.
- That changes the way we pray.

2 And He said to them, "When you pray, say:

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2. God's name is to be set apart from all other names.

"hallowed" – to set apart, to esteem, to honor, to revere.

- Why? Because His name is weighty, heavy. God is no lightweight.
- Think about this –
 - God's glory is the sum total of His attributes.
 - God's name is the sum total of His attributes.
- Therefore to glorify God's name and set it apart, is to lavishly extol and praise who God is. It is to say, "There is no one like God."
- In our prayer life then, we lift up God's name and hallow it as the greatest name in heaven and on earth and we want to express that in our prayers.

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3 *'Give us each day our daily bread.*

4. We are to ask that our daily needs would be provided.

“bread” - stands for all of the necessities of life – food, clothing, shelter, health, peace, protection, our prayer requests.

- Workers in the first century were paid 1 day at a time.
- Flour mills only ground enough flour for 1 day.

Matt 6:25,34

25 "For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?"

34 "So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

1 Tim 4:3,4

3 men who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth.

4 For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is **received with gratitude**;

Prov 30:8

8 Give me neither poverty nor riches;

Feed me with the food that is my portion,

Phil 4:6

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

4 *'And forgive us our sins,*

For we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

And lead us not into temptation.'"

5. Ask for the forgiveness of our sins, and extend forgiveness to others.

- All of the believer's sins are forgiven past, present, and future.
- Then why do we ask for forgiveness? To restore the joy of our fellowship with God. To remind us of our acts of sin still present, and to remind us of His forgiveness.

1 John 1:4,9

4 These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- Extending forgiveness to others demonstrates our understanding of God's forgiveness of us.

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6. Keep us away from temptation.

- Shows God that we have no desire to sin.
- Keep us from the brink of sin.
- Minimizes the occasions for testing us.

“temptation” – πειρασμος – a trial, a test.

Prov 17:3

3 The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold,

But the Lord tests hearts. (Example of Job)

- God does not tempt.

James 1:13

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.

"Trials are intended to make us think, to wean us from the world, to send us to the Bible, to drive us to our knees."

- J C Ryle

5 things to note about this prayer:

1. God is first. He loves to hear us praise Him for all of His attributes, to recognize perfection. It is a recognition that He is the only one who is perfect. Do it often.
2. If the first 3 parts of this prayer are a reality, then the last 3 become minor in comparison.

Acts 4:23-28

23 When they had been released, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them.

24 And when they heard this, they lifted their voices to God with one accord and said, "O Lord, it is You who MADE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA, AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM,

25 who by the Holy Spirit, through the mouth of our father David Your servant, said, 'WHY DID THE GENTILES RAGE,

AND THE PEOPLES DEVISE FUTILE THINGS?

26 'THE KINGS OF THE EARTH TOOK THEIR STAND,

AND THE RULERS WERE GATHERED TOGETHER

AGAINST THE LORD AND AGAINST HIS CHRIST.'

27 "For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel,

28 to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur.

29 "And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence,

3. This prayer is not an attitude. Nowhere in Scripture does it say to be in an "attitude of prayer." Prayers consist of words always from our heart/mind and sometimes from our mouth.

4. Prayers do not have to be long. They are not necessarily a sign of spirituality.

Ecc1 5:1-2

1 Guard your steps as you go to the house of God and draw near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools; for they do not know they are doing evil.

2 Do not be hasty in word or impulsive in thought to bring up a matter in the presence of God. For God is in heaven and you are on the earth; therefore **let your words be few.**

5. Again, this is a framework. It is meant to be a guide. It is up to us to fill in the space between the parts.