

# LUKE Lesson 28

## Teach Us to Pray (Luke 11:1-13)

14 December 2018

**Vs 1** The disciple did not ask the Lord to teach them how to pray. He asked Him to teach them to do it. Our problem is not that we don't know how to talk to God in prayer; our problem is that we don't pray.

**Vs 2** Jesus gave His disciples some principles for prayer. He did not restrict them to only praying these words. Jesus didn't use these words when He prayed (Matt 26:39, John 17). As the Son of God, He would never say "Our Father" (plural). Then, this cannot be properly called "*The Lord's prayer.*"

**The first principle:** pray to your Father in heaven. This eliminates every other "father" in the world (including the devil, John 8:44) and it disqualifies every mother. We are to only pray to God the Father.

**The second principle:** "Hallowed be thy name." When you pray, approach God with great reverence and respect. Don't try to bring God down to your level.

**The third principle:** "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done." God's kingdom is set as an example of a place where everyone's lives are blessed because nobody is seeking their own desires; they are aiming to always be in the will of God. If we would tailor our prayers according to this principle, we would see more prayers answered because we wouldn't pray anything outside of God's will.

**The fourth principle:** "as in heaven, so in earth." We can't bring God's will to the entire planet earth today. But we CAN aim to accomplish God's will in our own bodies, which are made of earth (Gen 2:7, Gen 18:27, 1 Cor 15:47, 2 Cor. 4:7).

**Vs 3** **The fifth principle:** "Give us day by day our daily bread." Learn to depend on God to provide for your needs on a daily basis. This way, you'll spend more time with Him as you trust Him to take care of you.

**Vs 4** **The sixth principle:** "Forgive us...for we also forgive." —This is conditional forgiveness. Don't expect God to forgive you or listen to your prayer if you refuse to forgive somebody. (Mt 5:23-24, 6:14-15, 18:35, James 2:13, Eph 4:26-32). How can you love God if you won't love a brother? (1 Jn 4:20).

**The seventh principle:** "Lead us not into temptation." Jesus was led into temptation (Luke 4:1-8). Jesus can handle temptation; there's no guarantee that you can. You're better off avoiding it, according to the Lord Jesus.

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**Addendum:** When you speak to God, use your own voice without any fancy variations in tone, volume, flair, accent, or dramatic effect. God will hear you when you speak to Him coherently and reasonably from your heart.

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## ASK, SEEK, and KNOCK

**5-6** The friend in this verse represents God. He's got the bread that we need; the Lord Jesus Christ (Jn 6:33, Lk 4:4). We must go to Him and ask for the bread we need for our friends. You can't minister to the spiritual needs of your friends without going to God.

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**7-8** Prayer sometimes requires importunity: *Troublesomely urgent; unreasonably solicitous; overpressing in request or demand*. It means you won't quit until you get what you seek. If you've prayed according to God's will, you can rest assured that the matter is in God's capable hands. If you don't have peace in your heart about the matter after praying to God, then keep going back to Him until you do.

Example: "God please save my mother from Hell and give her eternal life." Is that God's will (2 Pet 3:9)? Yes. Have you given God anything to work with? Did you plant the good seed of the Gospel (Lk 8:11)? If you have, then you can rest knowing that God is in control of the situation. No need to worry.

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**Vs 9** Ask until God answers. If God doesn't answer, seek to know God's will (from His word). If you determine that you are asking according to God's will, and you still have no answer, you need to consider whether there might be something in your life hindering that prayer and knock it down:

Unforgiveness (vs 4), marriage disputes (1 Pet 3:7), giving place to iniquity (Psalm 66:18, Isa 59:2), covetousness which is idolatry (Col 3:5, Jer 7:9, 16, 11:12-14, Ezek 8:18), hating good and loving evil (Mic 3:2-4), etc. You've got to study God's word to identify the hindrance in your prayer life.

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**Vs 10** "Everyone that asketh receiveth." Jesus didn't promise that you would receive exactly what you asked for. But He'll give you what is best for you. That's what you'll receive.

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**11-13** A human father (being evil) has enough love for his son to not give him harmful things, but rather to give him good gifts. God is not evil. He is loving (1 Jn 3:16), kind (Titus 3:4), and caring (1 Pet 5:7). Won't you trust Him to give you what is best? (Psalm 37:5).

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