

LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY | LUKE 11:1-13 | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 01/11/2026

I. How to Pray (1-4) | II. How Often to Pray (5-8) | III. How Prayer Works (9-13)

INTRO: In our last teaching in (Luke 10:25-42), Jesus encountered a Lawyer and a Female Disciple (Martha) who Needed Help finding the Good Way. – With that in mind, Luke now mentions another Disciple *who, like a child watching a parent*, realized there was something different, deeper, and more powerful about the WAY Jesus prayed, and wanted to learn it. – So, I've entitled this lesson: **LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY.**

I. HOW TO PRAY (1-4) – **READ:** Prayer is More than just reciting words, or vain repetitions (Matt 6:7).

A. The Disciple's Request (1) – *It came to pass...* Once again we learn of "Jesus Praying." Luke mentioned that Jesus previously prayed at: John's baptism (3:21), when the crowds increased (5:16), when He chose the twelve (6:12), before He drew a confession of the twelve (9:18), and at His Transfiguration (9:29).

1. Observing Jesus' Prayer Life (1a) – Jesus was a man of PRAYER! – They "saw" the importance of prayer in Jesus' life. – He did it often, (Mark 1:35) mentions that He did it alone. – They saw that it was Personal and it was Powerful! – (Heb 5:7) records the Fervency and Effectiveness of Jesus' prayers while on earth "who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear..." (Heb 5:7)

2. Desiring Jesus' Prayer Life (1b) – The disciples associated His Spiritual Power to His Prayer life. – So, the one disciple asked Him... Teach us to Pray... wanting to learn how to better their own prayer focus. – Notice the request was NOT to Preach better or Witness more effectively, or to Perform miracles for the masses. – The disciples wanted the Same Desire to pray as Jesus did! – As John taught His disciples... This disciple of Jesus knew that John the Baptist was a man of fervent prayer and so, as one of Jesus' disciples he expressed their desire to Learn To Pray like Jesus! (Power is evident in a man of woman of Prayer! Do you have it?)

P/A – Q: Do we spend enough time with Jesus to realize the importance that He places on prayer? – As a disciple, More than anything, we should SEEK to pray More and More!

B. The Divine Response of Jesus (2-4) – He answers the disciples question with a slightly modified version of the Model Prayer, as found in Matthew's Gospel (Matt 6:9-13); where Jesus first taught it to His disciples on the Sermon on the Mount. – Only 59 words, with a couple follow up applications (Luke 11:5-13). –

- Jesus proceeded to Teach them to PRAY, NOT a prayer to be Repeated, but AN EXAMPLE teaching proper perspective, attitude and content of prayer... commonly called "THE LORD'S PRAYER".
- As we examine the prayer, it serves as a PATTERN for all disciples to uniquely incorporate these SIX POINTS into their own prayer practices. – I see first the need for...

1. Diligence (2a) – Notice the divine response is, "When you pray?" NOT, if you pray! – It requires A spiritual thirst for the things of God and a desire to grow closer to him. – It also requires DILIGENCE!

- Some Christians honestly don't know How to Pray. And Some Christians are shy to pray!

2. Reverence (2b) – This teaches us that True Prayer depends on a spiritual relationship with God, which enables us to call Him Father {Grk. Pater} – A relationship that was built on Jesus Christ (Gal 4:1-7)

- We are to respectfully PRAY {Grk. Proseuchomai}, with adoration or worship as we Hallow His Name; which is attached to His divine character & attributes (Psalm 8:1; 9:10; 115:1)

P/A – When you speak to the Father... How do you address Him?

3. Providence (2c) – Prayer aligns itself with **GOD'S WILL rather than our own**, which **ALWAYS** aligns with **God's Word!** – Be careful to put **"God's Approval"** on something that opposes what His Word says. – **We often err** when our own selfish desires are just a religious label, saying that **"we prayed about it!"** – **Are Prayers are to RECOGNIZE the PRIORITY of God's Kingdom Plan...**

- **Your Kingdom come...** – This means that **God's Rulership** is to be sought and advanced on earth.
- **Your Will...** – **God's Purposes** are to be implemented on earth. (*If we don't pray for it, we will stray from it!*)

4. Sustenance (3) – Once we are aligned with God's will, **we can Ask Him for Supply** of our **Daily Bread** – **i.e., God's Provision!** – **We can Ask our Father for our NEEDS... NOT for our GREEDS!** (*God knows our needs!*)

- **God is a Faithful Provider**, meeting both physical and spiritual needs for those who Trust in Him!
- **Q: How do we know God will Provide? A: SCRIPTURE!** – **(Rom 8:32)** *"He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?"*. (*i.e., That we need!*) – **(Phil 4:19)** *"And my God shall supply ALL your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus"*.

P/A – This petition suggests a **DAILY HABIT** of coming to God with our needs. (*cf. Psalm 37:25*)

5. Forgiveness (4a) – The request is the **heart of the prayer** – **WE ALL NEED IT!** – And **BECAUSE OF JESUS**, we can **Ask GOD to Forgive US** for what we did **yesterday!**

- **Our sins** – **DAILY FORGIVENESS** is just as important as daily food! – We frequently experience a stronger need for food, but the **need for forgiveness exists** regardless of whether we feel it. – **(Matt 6:12)** labels our sins as **"DEBTS"** acquired when we **VIOLATE** God's Law. – **But Prayer is the avenue by which we Confess it!**
- **Our forgiveness of others** – Jesus emphasized the need to practice this, because **our hearts can become hardened against others**. – **Prayer softens our heart** as we request divine help to forgive.
- Matthew's account provides a condition on our forgiveness **(tt. Matt 6:14-15)**. (*Is there someone you need to?*)

6. Deliverance (4b) – Scripture makes it clear that **God never tempts mankind** (**James 1:13**). – But at times **He may allow us to be exposed to attacks from Satan**. – **We should therefore Pray for Deliverance...**

- **From temptation** – Temptation is an enticement to turn from complete obedience to God. – In the **Garden of Gethsemane**, the disciples were told **"Pray that you may not enter into temptation"** **(22:40)** – **PRAY** because our flesh is WEAK! **PRAY** because the allurement of the world is STRONG! And **PRAY...**
- **To be delivered from the evil one** – **Satan is known as the great tempter!** – *He comes to steal, kill, and Destroy* (**John 10:10**) – If a Christians fail to pray, then we're easy targets for Deception and Destruction!
- **However, when Christians Pray effectively...** something is activated in the heavenlies! – **Strongholds are BROKEN in Jesus' Name**. – Know this church... **"Satan trembles when he sees the weakest Christian on his knees."** – **William Cowper** – This is why he does everything possible to keep you from prayer!

P/A – This model helps us... **but it must be GENUINE our own hearts**. – Some don't know how to pray and Others are not confident in prayer. But know this also: **"You can draw near to God even though you cannot say a word. A prayer may be crystalized in a tear. A tear is enough water to float a desire to God."** – **C.H. Spurgeon**. – **Learn to develop your Prayer life Church!** – Say this... **"LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY!"**

II. HOW OFTEN TO PRAY (5-8) – Now Jesus adds a **Parable** to stress Persistence in Prayer! – **READ:**

A. Petitioning a Friend When in Need (5-6) – This man was not prepared for an **unexpected guest**. So, to be hospitable, **he implored a nearby friend** at an **"Inconvenient"** and **"Unexpected hour..."** **Midnight!**

B. Problem of Inconvenience (7) – It wasn't that his friend was **grouchy**... and it wasn't because he had no loaves to lend. – **In those days**, a full family would live in a one-room dwelling. **They all slept close for warmth, with their animals nearby**. – There was **NO WAY** the man could go to the door without disturbing the entire family... *"I cannot rise to give to you."* (Story ends here)... *then Jesus makes the...*

C. Point of the Parable (8) – He finishes the parable by **exposing the reason WHY the man would rise and meet his friends urgent need... PERSISTENCE!** – His petition was **Importunate!** (*with Unashamed Boldness!*)

P/A – WHAT DOES THIS PARABLE TEACH US ABOUT GOD AND PRAYER? – If an *inconvenienced friend* will **"get up"** to meet the need of a bothersome friend... **HOW MUCH MORE**... will our **Loving Heavenly Father** meet the Immediate Needs of His children! – **When we PRAY, we MUST KNOW that...**

- We can come to God with ANY burden (**1 Pet 5:7**), casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.
- We should know **OUR REQUESTS** are **NEVER** an Inconvenience to God! – (**Psalm 50:15**) Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.
- We must **APPROACH GOD PERSISTENTLY**, even if we don't receive an immediate response!

P/A – This parable is a **CONTRAST**, teaching God is NOT reluctant to give to his children and **we don't have to persuade Him!** – God is always reachable and available, and you cannot come to Him too often or at the wrong time. – (**Psalm 121:3**), He will not allow your foot to be moved, He who keeps you will not slumber.

- This encourages us to make prayer a constant habit throughout the day, approaching God with **"bold humility"** whenever a problem or need arises.

III. HOW PRAYER WORKS (9-13) – **READ (9-10)**: Jesus reinforces His answer to the disciple: *"So I say to you"* (9a), which also provides **encouragement** for us to practice daily, *as we make our own ...*

A. Prayer Requests (9-10) – **Prayer WORKS when we Actually Pray!** – But James tells us that our **Prayer Requests** must also contain FAITH! – (**James 1:6-8**) But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

- Some mistakenly believe that PRAYER is just hopeful thinking or wishing things to be different... **This is NOT Real Prayer!**
- Jesus taught that PRAYER **was not only a conscious effort** but was to be offered in a hallowed place: *"...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."* (**Matt 6:6**) – *So then, when we pray...*

1. Repetition is Needed (9b) – The threefold command of Jesus is to: **Ask, Seek, Knock!** – **All three verbs are Continuous.** – Jesus is not speaking of once in a while prayer! – G. Müller comments, *"It is not enough to begin to pray, nor to pray aright; nor is it enough to continue for a time to pray; but we must patiently, believingly, continue in prayer until we obtain an answer"* – And when we do a...

2. Reward Is Promised (9c-10) – Notice that with each **Prayer Action** a response immediate follows. **"It WILL be given you, you WILL find, and it WILL be opened to you."** – And in (v.10), Jesus repeats the promise, with the emphasis on *Receiving, Finding, Opening*.

P/A – Knowing that God hears and answers is a powerful motivation to pray without ceasing! (1 Thess 5:17) **But some of us need to PUSH: Pray Until Something Happens!**

Finally, Jesus gives a mini parable which compares Earthly and Heavenly responses to our requests...

B. Prayer Responses (11-13) – **READ:** This teaches that **we can pray with child-like confidence!**

1. **Rhetorical Questions (11-12)** – To make a point, Jesus presents **three requests of a hypothetical needy son**, to their earthly father; asking for **Bread**, for a **Fish**, and for an **Egg**. – **It's obvious that even an earthly father would NOT provide a Stone, a Serpent, or even a Scorpion** instead of true nourishment.

2. **Real Comparison (13)** – **Jesus first mentions human depravity (13a)**, *i.e.*, we're effected by the fall (evil) – Then He reveals **How our Good Heavenly Father Responds** to our Prayer Requests, providing what we need most... **THE HOLY SPIRIT!** *"How much more" will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!*

- God wants us to partner with Him because we can't be holy on our own. – He knows we need His Spirit to help us, change us, lead us, pray for us, and be with us.
- Learn to Move beyond just asking for stuff...Ask for God's Spirit to truly Help You seek God's presence and guidance.

"PRAYER WORKS" WHEN WE ASK! So, ASK! Say...

- Lord, **Teach Me To Pray...**
- Lord, **Teach Me To Ask and Be Persistent...**
- Lord, **Help me to Trust You...**
- Lord, **Fill You with His Spirit Right Now!**

(Psalm 84:11) *No good thing will the Lord withhold from those that walk uprightly.*