

When Heaven Opens

Luke 3:21-22

Luke 3:21: When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened.

“Jesus also was baptized” - Why would Jesus need to be baptized? To be our example.

“while He prayed” - At the very **center** of Jesus' life and ministry was prayer.

Luke 11:1: Now 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.”

Mark 1:35, 38: Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed...“for this **purpose** I have come forth.”

Like Jesus, we should pray:

- morning (Mark 1:35).
- evening (Matthew 14:23).
- often (Luke 5:16).
- for big decisions (Luke 6:12).
- at salvation (Luke 9:18).
- at times of prayer and fasting (Matthew 6:16 and 17:21).
- in times of trial and warfare (Matthew 26).

Luke 3:21: When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened.

Luke and prayer - this is the only gospel that includes “while He prayed.”

Luke teaches us that prayer is directly **connected** to (1) Heaven opening, (2) the Spirit descending, and (3) the Father speaking.

1. The **connection** between prayer and heaven opening.

Luke 3:21: ...while He prayed, heaven was opened.

Matthew 6

Genesis 28:12: Then Jacob dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. (John 1:51)

Exodus 17 - Moses and the Amalekites.

The Devil works so hard to keep us from praying, both personally and corporately.

Luke 3:21-22: While He prayed, the heaven was opened. And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him.

2. There is a **connection** between prayer and the Spirit.

Luke emphasizes this **connection** in his gospel and Acts.

Luke 1 - Prayer and the Spirit. (John the Baptist)

Luke 11:9-10: 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. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

Luke 11:11-13: 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? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 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!

Acts 1:14: These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

Acts 4:31: And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

Luke 3:21-22: While He prayed, the heaven was opened. And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.

3. A **connection** between prayer and the Father speaking.

Here we learn that prayer involves **both** speaking to the Father and listening for the Father.

Who is God the Father? He speaks! He loves! He's pleased!

The message of the New Testament: we are in Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Are you in Christ?