



# ShalomAZ Ministries

*In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption*

## **“We Need You Today: Prayer as the Cry of the Apprentice”**

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### **Devotion and Discussion Questions**

**Key Passages (TLV):** Luke 11:1-13; Luke 9:55-56 (NASV); 10:25-27; John 1:1, 14; Ps. 95

Prayer begins, not as a religious exercise, but as the cry of the apprentice walking with Yeshua. In Luke 11, we find ourselves right in the heart of the travel narrative — Yeshua moving intentionally from Galilee toward Jerusalem, and His disciples journeying with Him. And we are not simply readers of the story; we are His apprentices. The goal is not merely to know what the Master knows, but to become like Him. To watch what He does, the way He does it. And what the disciples notice most is this: Yeshua prays.

This journey takes them into Samaria — into the in-between spaces, the hostile territory, the Monday-through-Friday world where people still think and act like sinners because they have not yet been transformed. In that place, our instinct is often to respond like the Sons of Thunder — to call down fire. But Yeshua rebukes that spirit. He did not come to destroy lives, but to save them. And now, in Luke 11, He tells a second story — this one about approaching God personally. Prayer is how we stop treating God like an idea or a force, and begin approaching Him as Father.

#### **1. THE APPRENTICE LEARNS TO BEGIN WITH THE FATHER** (Luke 11:2-4)

Yeshua answers the disciples' request with something surprisingly simple. They say, “Master, teach us to pray,” and He gives them a pattern — not a graduate-level seminar, not a complicated formula, but a relational outline. “*When you pray, say, ‘Father, sanctified be Your Name, Your kingdom come...’*” Prayer begins not with performance, but with relationship. *Avinu*. Our Father. Abba — intimacy with reverence. Prayer is not rote repetition; it is the language of a child speaking to a Father who is real.

And the prayer moves outward from that relationship into worship, submission, daily dependence, forgiveness, and protection. Holy is His Name — He is One of One. Your Kingdom come — not my will, not my kingdom, but Yours. Give us daily bread — the manna for today. Forgive us — and make us forgivers. Lead us not into temptation — because we are weak without Him. This is prayer as surrender. Prayer as dependence. Prayer as the apprentice saying, “Father, I need You to rule in me.”

#### **2. THE APPRENTICE REFUSES TO STOP KNOCKING.** (Luke 11:5-8)

Yeshua then tells a strange little parable: a man pounding on a friend's door at midnight, asking for bread. At first, it almost sounds like God is reluctant — like the grumpy friend who doesn't want to be bothered. But that is not the point. The point is persistence. Yeshua is saying: Look how relentless you would be in real life if you truly needed something. You wouldn't stop knocking. You wouldn't walk away empty-handed. So why do we stop praying so quickly?

The apprentice learns that persistence is not about demanding *my way* — it is about recognizing my dependence. I don't have the loaves I need to respond to the needs around me. On my own, I don't have what it takes to love my neighbor, to forgive, to endure, to be transformed. So I keep knocking. I keep asking. Not because God is irritated, but because prayer is the ongoing declaration:

“If You don’t move, it won’t happen. If You don’t provide, I am insufficient. I need You.” And the Father honors that surrendered persistence.

### **3. THE APPRENTICE PRAYS FOR PRESENCE, NOT JUST PROVISION. (Luke 11:9–13)**

Yeshua brings prayer even deeper. “Ask... seek... knock...” And then He paints another picture: not a friend, but a father. What father would give a snake instead of a fish? What father would hand his child a scorpion instead of an egg? Even flawed earthly fathers know how to give good gifts. How much more can we trust *Avinu*, our Heavenly Father? Prayer is not manipulation. It is not about perfect words. God hears the heart beneath the words.

And then comes the beautiful promise: the greatest gift the Father gives is not merely bread, protection, or answers — but the Holy Spirit. The Presence of God Himself. We thought we were asking for daily provision, but Yeshua reveals the deeper answer: “We need You today” is ultimately a cry for God Himself — near, personal, present. Prayer is not just the apprentice asking for resources. It is the apprentice longing for Presence.

### **CONCLUSION**

Prayer is like sitting across the table from someone you love — a spouse, a close friend, someone deeply important. In that moment, the world fades to the edges. Prayer is protected intimacy with the LORD; a conversation of listening and speaking with God firsthand. It flows from the conviction that God is not peripheral, not a waiter taking orders, but the center of the relationship. Prayer is attention given to the One who is attentive to us.

And Yeshua, the Living Word made flesh, demonstrated this dependence. He did not treat prayer as optional. The Son prayed to the Father — and His disciples noticed. They said, “Teach us.” If Yeshua needed that communion, how much more do we? The apprentice begins with the Father. The apprentice keeps knocking. And the apprentice discovers that the deepest gift is not bread alone — it is Presence. We need You today, Lord. Not just what You give. We need You.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. What does it mean to be an “apprentice” of Yeshua rather than merely a student of information?
2. In what ways do we tend to depersonalize God in our prayer life?
3. Which line of Yeshua’s prayer pattern speaks most directly to your current season?
4. Where have you stopped knocking too soon — and what would persistence look like with surrendered trust?
5. How does it change prayer to realize the Father’s greatest gift is the Ruach ha-Kodesh — His Presence?

### **CLOSING PRAYER:**

*Avinu Malkeinu*, Our Father, Our King, Your Name is Holy. We come to You not with formulas, but with hearts that need You. Teach us to pray the Yeshua way — personally, worshipfully, humbly. Let Your Kingdom come in us. Provide our daily bread. Forgive us, and make us forgivers. Guard us from temptation, because we are weak without You. And Father, more than anything, give us Your Presence. Give us the Ruach ha-Kodesh. We don’t only need answers — we need You. In Samaria, in the in-between, in the ordinary hours of our lives... we need You today.

*B'Shem Yeshua*, In Yeshua’s Name, Amen