

FORGED - Teach Me to Pray

August 21, 2022 – Pastor Isaiah Fern

Forged - when we are in the Master's hands, we are being molded by His refining fire and his shaping. It's easy to get cold and hard towards God and begin to become rusted and lacking fruit when we are outside of His Word and outside of his close presence in prayer.

Today's message - we will be looking at Words of Jesus to his disciples on how to pray, that we may be inspired to spend personal time with the Lord, and go deeper in prayer, no matter if you are just discovering prayer or you have become a veteran in prayer.

Luke 11:1-4 - It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place, when He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John also taught his disciples." 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 do not lead us into temptation.'"

What is prayer?

Prayer is our way of talking to and communing with God. There are many different ways we approach God in prayer, but at its core, prayer is our ongoing conversation with God.

Three of the most important factors in developing a close friendship with someone:

3 - Common Interests

2 - Shared Experiences

1 - Proximity - live close or spend the most time in the same place

If you are interested in being close to Christ, you must get into proximity with Him...spend time with Him as a friend not just in a church service or prayer meeting. To experience the joy of the friendship it requires proximity, and this comes through personal PRAYER.

Prayer doesn't
help our
relationship with
God, it *IS* our
relationship
with God.

- Mark Hart

"Prayer is the most concrete way to make our home in God." - Henry Nouwen

This is the 5th time it is recorded that Jesus went away to pray. He had a habit of going to a place free of distractions and away from the pouring out to be poured into by the Father. We see this habit with Daniel, with Elijah, King David, The disciples saw Jesus pray a LOT. They saw Him pray without ceasing. They saw that He had something they need to have. At times, ALL NIGHT.

Luke 11:1-4

V1 "It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place,"

Do you have a place of prayer?

Matthew 6:5-6 NASB - 5 "And when you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they will be seen by people. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. 6 But as for you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door, and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you."

Public meetings are great for *intercession*. A private place is great for *communion* with the Lord.

Where can you get away to be with God in prayer like Jesus did?

It could be on your morning jog, your cluttered closet or quiet basement, a walk in nature, the library at UNO, the car ride from Gretna or Bellevue to Omaha, or popping your headphones in during study hall. If you are a mom, it might be in your parked car in the garage.

FIND A PLACE OF PRAYER

V1 "when He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John also taught his disciples."

They SAW HIM PRAY. This was the only time in the four gospels that the disciples asked the Lord to teach them something. They don't say teach us HOW. They said teach us TO PRAY. They knew the words...they were Jews and prayed at least the 3 Jewish prayers a day.

They weren't asking him for more words to recite...they were asking Him to show them this NEW way to pray. To teach them to be people OF PRAYER.

Pastor Isaiah's Story: This church auditorium is where I learned the WORDS and the DISCIPLINE to pray...but that closet is where he experienced the PRESENCE of God through the INTIMACY of prayer.

BE A STUDENT OF PRAYER. BE A TEACHER OF PRAYER

v2 "And He said to them, "When you pray, SAY:

Jesus did not say "think". Praying out loud challenges your mindset. It helps you form your thoughts and words to the Lord, and it helps other learn from you.

Some people say "don't pray out loud because the devil can hear you..." As if the devil is more powerful and can change Gods plans.

"Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the one who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference." - Max Lucado

DON'T JUST THINK IT, SAY IT.

V2 (Our) 'Father, (who art in heaven) hallowed be Your name.'

FATHER – This is a very personal way to address God, something that people did not do back then.

What is Hallowed? Hallowed means Holy. Holiness is the primary character of God - Rev 4, Isaiah 6. There is none like him.

We come before a throne of Grace but also a throne of Holiness. Based on the shed blood of Jesus Christ we can come...otherwise we could not.

He is high above us and knows all things. When we call on His name it is the biggest name-drop we could ever use to get someone's attention. The king of the Universe is attentive to our conversation.

*"A god who is all love, all grace, all mercy, no *sovereignty*, no justice, no holiness, and no wrath is an *idol*."*

- RC Sproul

"Your kingdom come. (Your will be done...on earth as it is in Heaven)"

When we ask that God's kingdom come and His will be done, we are saying *'I know I have some ideas of what needs to be done, but you already know and you are using everything for your kingdom, which is coming. I know I have ideas of how things should be done but yours are better.'*

By pledging what God wants us to do—in praying "your will be done"—we are renouncing our own will and committing to actively doing God's will.

How do you know you are praying God's will?

Romans 12:2 NASB - And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 8:26 NLT - And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.

We know there are certain things that are God's will.... Salvation, marriages to be whole, loved ones to follow the Lord...

Other things we may not know exactly what God's will is, but it should not keep us from praying. We choose to submit to what he decides.

v3 "Give US each day our daily bread."

We pray for others, not only ourselves. Pray for the needs of others and consider being the solution to their needs as the Lord prompts you.

This prayer indicates asking for the basics needs needed to survive. Not the lavish car or 5-Star meal. This prayer is reflective of the Israelites who depended on the Lord each morning to provide manna for that day.

"Daily bread" could include: everything required to satisfy our bodily needs like food, clothing, shelter, and health.

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus." - Philippians 4:6-7 NLT

"We are to pray in times of adversity, lest we become faithless and unbelieving. We are to pray in times of prosperity, lest we become boastful and proud. We are to pray in times of danger, lest we become fearful and doubting. We are to pray in times of security, lest we become self-sufficient." - Billy Graham

ASK

v4 "And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us."

Sin does not need keep us from coming to God in prayer. The longer you avoid Him, the further you slide into a deeper place of shame and condemnation.

1 John 1:9-10 NASB - If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous, so that He will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

Unforgiveness is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die.

Forgive others quickly

Matthew 5:23-24 NASB – "Therefore, if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there you remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering."

As you pray this line of the Lord's prayer it's a great time to think specifically about your sins and ask for God's forgiveness. Who do you need to forgive? Ask for God's help to forgive those who may have sinned against you.

CONFESS

v4 “And do not lead us into temptation.”

What does this mean? A more accurate translation is “Save us from a time of trial” We know that the Lord does not lead us into temptation because of what James 1 says.

James 1:13-14 NASB - No one is to 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. 14 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.

If the devil can't get you to do the bad things, he'll settle for watching you get busy with the wrong things.

“One of the greatest attacks of the enemy is to make you busy, to make you hurried, to make you noisy, to make you distracted, to fill the people of God and the Church of God with so much noise and activity that there is no room for prayer. There is no room for being alone with God. There is no room for silence. There is no room for meditation.” - Paul Washer

We are asking the Lord to deliver us from the temptations of this world that drive us away from God. Salvation does not automatically solve our sin habits...it gives us the strength to resist. We need God's daily strength to persevere through trials and not give in to evil.

We ask that God would protect us from becoming vulnerable to those powers that rage against God's kingdom and God's people.

If the devil can't get you to do the *bad things*, he'll settle for watching you get busy with the *wrong things*.

(“For yours is the kingdom power and glory forever Amen”)

If you look at the Lord's Prayer found in Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4, Jesus doesn't teach this final phrase. The New King James Version includes it in Matthew, but it was not part of the earliest Greek manuscripts of the New Testament. It was likely added because historically this doxology had become part of the Catholic liturgy, and it came closely after the “Our Father,” known to most Protestants as the Lord's Prayer. Even though it isn't included in the earliest Greek manuscripts of the Scriptures, Protestant Christians have included this line as part of the Lord's Prayer since the 1600s. This beautiful doxology points us to the truth of who God is once again and gives God praise.

Where do we start, in becoming people of prayer?

We can start simply by using resources and frameworks available, for instance:
ACTS - acronym for prayer: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication

Books: *How to Pray: A Simple Guide for Normal People* - Pete Grieg

Echo prayer app, Lectio365 app, One Minute Pause App, Daily Office Devotional – Pete Scazzero

Reflection questions:

- Where can you get away to be with God in prayer like Jesus did?
- Who have you learned to pray from and who are you modeling prayer for?
- Who do you need to forgive?

Challenges:

- Find a place and time of prayer once this week
- Say the Lord's prayer and pause to engage each line in personal reflection and prayer.
- Memorize the Lord's Prayer and recite it to someone or post it online this week
- Fasting - When is the last time you fasted? Choose one day to fast and spend time praying for your enemies and the needs of others.
- Get together with someone to pray and teach each other to pray.