

“Prayer and the Son of Man” Luke 11:1-13

Please Stand and Open Your Bibles to Matthew 6:5-13

One of the unique features of Luke’s gospel is that Jesus is revealed as the Son of Man, that is, He is 100% God and 100% Man. And with that we see more of His humanity than in any of the other gospels. One of those characteristics is that He is constantly praying to the Father. We have seen him praying at His baptism, we see him going to a deserted place to pray before he calls the four and then again before He calls the twelve. He prayed to bless the bread of the five thousand and then on the mountain of transfiguration. Two weeks ago, we saw Jesus pray out loud a blessing to the Father for revealing truth to His followers. You almost get the picture that prayer is an important thing. As we will see today this is not lost on His disciples...

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, as John also taught his disciples.”

We learn some things here. First, that John had taught his disciples to pray. We are not told that anywhere in the gospels

except for here. But I love this. We can learn a process that we should follow. Jesus was the example and others had followed. I can tell people all day long how to pray but until they see me practice it, they won't know how important it is.

What is Prayer?

Prayer is your privilege to communicate to the creator of the universe. God wants you to have a relationship with Him. All relationships are supposed to be a two-way agreement. Until you understand that God loves you and wants to relate with you, you will never see the beauty of prayer. What Jesus did for you is restore that which was lost in the garden. Adam spent His time walking with God in the cool of the garden. When Adam sinned and God said, "Where are you?" it was not the call of an arresting officer but that of a heartbroken Father. Jesus made it possible for us to again enjoy that relationship that Adam had and lost at the fall. You need to know that God never wanted us to be robots that just did what he says. In order for there to be love, there had to be a choice. You have freewill to love God or not.

Well, what if I sin? Does that not keep me from being able to talk to God? No! The first place you need to run to when you sin is the Father! Let's remember this before we move on...

1 John 2:1-2

My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

Jesus took care of the sin problem for you and now He is at the right hand of the father allowing you unfettered access to Him any time day or night.

So let us talk about the “How To” part. If you are a new Christian or one that never practiced prayer or been raised in false teaching that says that you can only pray when you are holy and sinless starting can be very awkward. You may feel that you are just talking to yourself. I would recommend that you start by praying out loud. This helps keep your mind engaged as when we do it in our mind, we have a tendency to wander in our thoughts. Jesus prayed out loud and it is always good practice to follow His example. Not that it is required as God can read your thoughts and knows what you need before you even ask Him.

Luke 11:2

So He said to them, “When you pray, say:”

Now the first thing you need to know is that this is not a ritual to repeat. It is just supposed to be a template for you to work off of. Kind of like training wheels. Once you get the hang of it you do not need them anymore. But a great place to start. As we read in Matthew...

Matthew 6:9

In this manner, therefore, pray:

So how to begin? Just like any relationship when you start a conversation you address the person you are talking to.

Luke 11:2

... Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name...

This brings us to an important question. Who do we pray to? Jesus? The Father? The Holy Spirit? The technical answer is that we pray to The Father, In the Name of Jesus, Through the Power of the Holy Spirit. Some of you pray to Jesus and I guess it doesn't matter as they are all God and God is one, but the Bible tells us to pray to the Father in the Name of Jesus.

John 15:16

You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

John 16:23-24

“And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.”

The context of both of these verses is that after the Father has sent the Spirit to dwell in them that they will be able to do this. So, as I said, you pray to the Father, in the Name of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit. And the beginning address is to “Our Father in Heaven, Hallowed by Your Name” Make sure you realize who it is you are praying to. This is not your buddy. It is not the man upstairs. It isn’t your co-pilot. His isn’t your sugar daddy. This is the very Creator of the Universe that is Holy and Separate from sinners. The only reason you have a seat in the conversation is because of the very blood shed by His only Son. You are saved by His grace, and He does not owe you anything. If you remember who He is and who you are your approach to Him will be one of respect. His Name is Holy!

Luke 11:2

... Your kingdom come...

Our number one desire is to see the Kingdom come. In the Kingdom we will be able to see God face to face. Also, most of the problems that we have that we need prayer for will be gone. But the main thing I want to point out is the kingdom is coming and is not here. We are not building God's kingdom. He is the one doing that and when He is ready, He will be the one to bring it down. We long for it. We ask for it. We pray for it.

Luke 11:2

... Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven...

The purpose of prayer is not to have your will done. It is to align ourselves with His will.

1 John 5:14-15

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

Our desire in our prayers should always be to seek God's perfect will in all our petitions. We should know that His way for us is always the best!

Luke 11:3

Give us day by day our daily bread.

As we read earlier that He already knows what we need before we ask Him. We need to know that God will provide our needs but not our wants. But we are to ask. Don't be afraid to ask! He wants us to. This is also a reminder that He cares about every part of your life.

Luke 11:4

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

This is relational forgiveness. What is that? Jesus has made the penalty of sin obsolete, but we still sin and make mistakes. If I say the wrong thing or do the wrong thing to someone I love, I need to keep that relationship strong and set things right. A healthy relationship with God will lead to a healthy relationship with others.

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

When we continue to remember how much God has forgiven us it is easy to forgive others. But forgiveness of others is a learned behavior that must be spoken in prayer before it is practiced in the world.

Luke 11:4

“...And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”

Do you know that God understands your weaknesses and wants you to ask for help? He does not want you to fight sin and the devil all on your own. Oh, you can, and He will let you but the whole time He will wait for you to come to daddy for help.

So, I would suggest if you do not have a prayer life that you would start with this. Take a note pad and write all these out with space in between them and personalize it. Start to practice it every day and before you know it becomes natural. Fight through the awkwardness of it and don't listen to the lies of the enemy. Don't let anyone discourage you and just do it. You will be blessed, and you will find your growth in your

relationship with God with flourish. As you read His word, He will start to speak to you, and you will fall more in love with Him every day.

Now, Jesus will tell us a story to help you understand how much God wants you to pray.

A Persistent Friend

Luke 11:5-8

Can you get the picture. Here is a neighbor that comes knocking at your door in the middle of the night with a need. You might hear a knock and then the doorbell and will probably think if no one answers they will just go away. But what if they don't? You may not be happy about it, but you will answer the door! And to just get rid of the guy you will give him all that he wants! The moral of the story is persistence. God is not an unwilling neighbor. He is more than willing and desires that we don't give up or lose heart. That leads us to the application...

Stay Persistent

Luke 11:9-13

In the original language it is written in the continual sense. It is “Keep asking, keep seeking, keep knocking” Don’t stop. Be persistent. And ask in faith!

James 1:5-7

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 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. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

But what if I don’t know what to ask?

Romans 8:26-27

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

So that means you have nothing to worry about, and we are commanded not to...

Philippians 4:6-7

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Do you want peace and confidence in your walk with the Lord? Then pray. Don't know what to pray? Pray! There are countless benefits from being a person of prayer!

James 5:16

The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man (or woman) avail much.

There is a lot more to be said and I would suggest you do a study throughout scripture on prayer. Use the psalms and use the prayers of the men of God to guide you. But most importantly, pray.

One last thought before we leave...

Luke 11:13

“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!”

Explain the relationship starts with God when we ask. He is asking and wants you to respond by asking too. If you haven't, pray and do it today!