

Studies in Christianity Prayer – A Private Discipline #2

S#1.

Teach us to Pray ?

S#2.

Text : **Luke 11: 1-13**

A. Having finished a study of assembled worship we now turn our attention toward private worship.

1. Assembling to worship each week is essential but it's a small part of our worship life.
2. Christians have daily periods of time in which we express our devotion to God.
3. Prayer is one integral part of our daily worship.
4. It is essential to a relationship with God.

S#3.

* J.C. Ryle wrote : *“A habit of prayer is one of the purest marks of a true Christian.”*

B. Last lesson we started a study of a Christian's personal prayer life.

S#4.

1. We saw that it is essential to a relationship with God.
2. We observed that we approach God with confidence (KJV .. **Boldness**) but respect.
3. We looked at four of the numerous reasons we should pray.
4. We closed observing some preconditions to prayer. (*name of, will of, faith, pure*)

S#5

C. This lesson will extract some lessons from the Lords demonstration prayer.

1. Prayer is a learned skill.
2. Christians are welcomed as family.
3. Prayer must be worshipful.
4. Prayer must be daily.
5. Prayer must engender penitence.
6. Prayer must be supplicant.
7. Prayer must be persistent.

I. Prayer is a learned skill.

S#6.

A. The scriptures are God speaking to us in written form.

1. **I Tim. 3: 16** – All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; **17** so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.
2. This refers to the Old Covenant scriptures God made with Israel.

S#7.

3. The scriptures in the New Covenant are also inspired.

II Pet. 3:2 – ... I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder,
2 that you should remember the words spoken beforehand
 by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and
Savior spoken by your apostles.

S#8.

B. God did not put any padding in his revealed word so every word is important.

1. **Luke 11: 1** – It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place,
 after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord,
teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples."

S#9.

2. Notice the request and the motivation behind it.

- a. Seeing Jesus pray the disciples realized they could not pray like He did.
- b. The disciples of John the Baptizer knew how to pray because John taught them.
- c. The disciples of Jesus asked Him to teach them how to pray.

S#10.

C. The disciples didn't ask to be taught a prayer, but taught a skill .. "HOW to pray."

- 1. We must each one learn that skill and practice it.
- 2. One becomes proficient in any learned skill by practicing it.
- 3. *"Much perfect practice makes perfect"*

II. Christians are welcomed as family.

S#11.

A. Notice the form that Jesus gave them is addressed to "Our Father."

S#12.

- 1. **Matt. 6: 9** – 'Our Father who is in Heaven, Hallowed be Your name.
- 2. Jesus included His followers as part of the family ... **our** Father

B. You are welcomed into the presence of God as His child.

- 1. Remember the picture of little John Kennedy playing at the feet of his father.
- 2. You and I go right up to the throne of God without fear.

Eph. 3: 11 – This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which
 He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, **12** in whom
we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.

S#13.

C. On the other hand, sinners have no access to God.

- 1. **Isa. 59:1** – Behold, the Lord's hand is not so short that it cannot save;
 Nor is His ear so dull that it cannot hear. **2** But your iniquities
 have made a separation between you and your God, and your
sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.

S#14.

- 2. Those who have followed false religion pray, **but** are not heard.
- 3. How foolish a Christian would be not to take advantage of such abundant access.

III. Prayer must be worshipful.**S#15.****A. Jesus teaches us to begin our prayer with reverence. (*and end the same way*)**

1. **Matt. 6: 9** – 'Our Father who is in Heaven, Hallowed be Your name. (cf-Vs.13) **S#16.**
2. "Hallowed" is not a common word in today's vernacular.
 - a. Hallow means : to make Holy, to honor as holy, to consecrate
 - b. Hallowed means : greatly revered, highly respected, sacred
3. All saints eve : Halloween or Hallowe'en (a contraction of "All Hallows' evening"),

B. Though God is our Father, we must address Him with respect.

1. Jesus once used the term "abba" to refer to God.
Mark 14: 36 – And He was saying, "Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will." **S#17.**
2. Using both Abba and Father together was common among Greek speaking Christians
3. The use of Abba was NOT meant to be very familiar.
4. Some charismatics today use this in a very disrespectful way ... "Daddy, Daddy."

C. We must give God the respect that is due Him and lift Him up to others.

1. How generous would you be to someone who treated you disrespectfully?
2. If you feel love for God, tell Him; if respect, tell Him. (*relationships are built*)

D. **Matt 6:10 – Your will be done, On earth AS it is in Heaven.****S#18.**

1. Do you realize that God's will is ALWAYS done in Heaven?
2. God gave men free will so most do not choose to obey Him. **FOR EXAMPLE :**
 - a. **II Pet 2: 9** – The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.
 - b. **Matt. 7: 14** – For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

IV. Prayer must be a daily practice.**S#19.****A. O so often people neglect prayer until they are faced with an emergency. **S#20.****

1. When it is clear that the situation is out of their control, they look to God.
2. When one's situation seems hopeless, he turns to the God for whom all is possible.
3. **BUT** ... when they do, they find themselves talking to a stranger.

B. Jesus taught us to pray for one day at a time.

1. The laborers got paid each day at the end of the day. S#21.
Matt. 6: 11 – Give us this day our daily bread.
2. Jesus taught us to live in the now.
Matt. 6: 34 – So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.
3. Verse 34 comes right after the verse that tells us to trust God to provide.
Matt. 6: 33 – But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

C. Our problem is that in truth we neither put Jesus first nor trust God to provide.**V. Prayer must engender penitence.**S#22.**A. When we are face to face with the holiness of God, our sins are magnified.**

1. When the prophet Isaiah was confronted by God he felt totally sinful.
Isa. 6:5 – Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts." S#23.
2. No one can stand before God with sin charged against him.
Psa. #130: 3 – If You, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?
4 But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared.

B. When one goes before the throne of the Holy One he feels the weight of his sin.

1. With each prayer goes a plea for purification. S#24.
2. **Matt. 6: 12** – And forgive us our debts (sins), as we also have forgiven our debtors.
Luke 11: 4 – And forgive us our sins, For we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us.
3. **Isa. 59: 1-2** .. Sin separates men from God and closes His ears to their prayers.

C. Notice that the forgiveness of our sins is directly linked to our forgiving others.

1. As Christians we are commanded to be forgiving of others.
Col. 3: 12 – So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; **13** bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. S#25.
2. Remember (**Matt. 18: 21-35**) the parable of the unforgiving servant.
 handed him over to the torturers ... **35** My heavenly Father will also do the same to you

VI. Prayer must be supplicant in nature.**S#26.****A. We start off each prayer lifting up the Lord's name and transition into requests.**

1. God invites us to tell Him about whatever our needs may be.
 - a. **Phil. 4: 6** – The Lord is near. **6** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **S#27.**
 - b. **I Pet. 5: 6** – Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, **7** casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. **S#28.**
2. He tells us to request our daily needs from Him, but to do it humbly.
3. He has also told us to seek forgiveness for our daily sins from Him. (**I Jn 1: 6-2: 2**)

B. Every prayer must reflect who we are in respect to God.

1. He is the Father and we are a child. ***Sovereign –vs– subject***
2. We request and He provides.
 - a. Our daily needs
 - b. Forgiveness for our sins
 - c. Help in our time of need

C. There is NO room for the doctrine of “name it and claim it.”

1. God is never in any way in our debt.
2. We owe God a debt that we can never pay.

VII. Prayer must be persistent.**Consistently DAILY****S#29.****A. In verses 5-13 Jesus teaches us the need to keep on asking for our needs.****S#30.****B. The neighbor who was requesting was asking for a need, not a want.**

1. God has placed each one of us into a set of circumstances as HE sees fit.
2. By faith, we must learn to overcome materialism and accept what God gives us.

Heb. 13: 5 – Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you, ..."

S#31.

CONCLUSION : What have we learned about prayer ?**S#32.**

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| 2. Christens are welcomed as family. | 5. Prayer must engender penitence. |
| 3. Prayer must be worshipful. | 6. Prayer must be supplicant. |
| 7. Prayer must be persistent. | |

Lesson Text :

Luke 11: 1-13 (cf-Matt. 6: 9*15)

1 It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place, after 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 lead us not into temptation."

5 Then He said to them, " Suppose one of you has a friend, and goes to him at midnight and says to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves; **6** for a friend of mine has come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; **7** and from inside he answers and says, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been shut and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' **8** "I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will get up and give him as much as he needs.

9 "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. **10** "For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened. **11** "Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? **12** "Or if he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? **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?"