

Lord, Teach us to Pray!

So you are thinking about Chair 3. I am so excited to know that you want to serve the Lord Jesus Christ!

You now face a major temptation, which like all temptations, is subtle. You want to be involved. You want to make a difference so you throw yourself and all that new energy into activity for the Lord Jesus and perhaps your church.

Here's the temptation. You either forget to pray, do not know how to pray or simply do not think you have time to pray. The fact is, if you are going to be all you can be and be greatly used by Jesus, you must learn to pray.

Let's see if we can find a good source for learning how to pray. That's right, it is Jesus. In Luke 11:1-13 the disciples asked Jesus, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."

The reply of Jesus is perhaps the best foundational teaching on prayer that you will ever see or hear. Notice that Jesus taught this same pattern for prayer in Matthew 6 as He was teaching "The Sermon on the Mount".

Many people know this prayer as the "Lord's Prayer" and simply repeat it. There is nothing wrong with doing that! However, there is so much more to this teaching if you realize that Jesus was giving us a "model" or basic outline to guide us into the things we should address as we pray.

Let's break it down and outline it.

1. We should begin our prayers with a proper address to our Heavenly Father:

“Our Father which art in heaven.”

2. We should always come with praise on our lips:

“Hallowed be Your name”

3. We should pray for God’s work and people all around the world:

**“Your Kingdom come.
Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”**

4. We should ask God for His blessing and provision upon our physical needs:

“Give us this day our daily bread.”

5. We should ask the Lord for forgiveness of our sins and choose to forgive others:

**“And forgive us our sins;
for we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us.”**

6. We should ask the Lord for protection from our enemy

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

- Jesus next taught that we should ask **persistently** and **urgently**.

In Luke 11:5-10, He used the illustration of a friend calling on his neighbor at midnight to teach us to make sure we ask and that we ask with persistence and urgency.

- Jesus assures us that our loving Heavenly Father wants to hear and answer our prayers.

In Verses 11-13 He uses the illustration of a son who asks of his father. That loving father delights in giving to his son!

So let's sum it up:

1. **We have an outline to guide us.** Let the Holy Spirit guide you as you listen to Him, meditate on each point of the “model prayer”/outline and then talk to God about it!
2. **Pray with passion!** The Father wants us to ask!
3. **Pray with confidence** in the fact that your Heavenly Father loves you!
4. **Get Started!** Learn to talk to your Heavenly Father. He wants to grow a relationship with you! He wants to hear your heart and have you find the joy and power that comes when you learn to express it to Him!