

LUKE I Learning to Pray **Text: Luke 11:1-4** —Bill Turner

Prayer is an act faith that is precious and pleasing to God.

Introduction:

1. We try to teach children how to pray when they are young...
and when you hear the prayer of a child it is so pure and precious...
→ someone shared some children's prayers they heard...
 - a. Boy: Please make my parents understand that if I don't eat salad, I do better at school
 - b. Girl: Please forgive me for hiding my sister's favorite doll, & please don't tell her where it is.
 - c. Girl: Dear God, I need you to make my mom not allergic to cats. I really want a cat and I really don't want to ask my mom to move out.
 - d. Girl: "Give us this day our jelly bread." (daily bread) Ronan: Red-bread (red jelly)
2. **Prayer is Literally Talking With God—the Creator of the Universe!**
3. **Prayer is NOT Bothering God—its an act faith that is precious & pleasing to God!**
 - a. Jesus prayed often — and the depth and intimacy of His prayers stirred something within the hearts of His disciples... to desire the same connection & Relationship w/ God
 - b. So they asked Jesus to teach them how to pray

I. OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN

A. HIS HOLY NAME ***'Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name.'***

1. **The first concern in every prayer should be the honor and glory of God.**
 - a) HALLOWED is translated from the greek: *Hagios* and is usually translated as *holy*
 - b) but root word meaning means: completely *different* or *separate, transcendent*
 - c) *There is NO ONE LIKE GOD—He is Completely Transcendent*
2. **When we go to God in prayer we acknowledge His transcendent Holiness**
 - a) He is Holy and His name is Holy (Psalm 111:9)
 - b) Even Jesus said: "Father, glorify thy name." (John 12:28.)
3. **God is Transcendent & Holy—But We Can Call Him OUR Father in Heaven!**
 - a) This is totally unique to Christianity — above all other world religions
"There is no evidence of anyone before Jesus using this term to address God." (Carson)
4. **As children of God in Christ we no longer approach God as a criminal before a Judge—but as a child goes to their Father (Lk 11:11–13)**

A Roman Emperor was being honored in a victory parade through streets of Rome

- a) He led his army of Roman soldiers through streets lined w/ cheering crowds
- b) As he passed where his family stood—a little boy ran out into the procession
- c) A soldier of the Roman Legion picked up the boy:
- d) 'You can't do that, boy,' he said. 'Don't you know who that is in the chariot? That's the emperor. You can't run out to his chariot.' And the little boy laughed. 'He may be your emperor,' he said, 'but he's my father.' (Barclay)

B. HIS ETERNAL KINGDOM *‘Thy kingdom come, they will be done...’*

- 1. God’s Kingdom is the Everlasting Kingdom that will never be destroyed**
 - a) It was Promised By God, Announced by His Prophets, Anticipated by His People, Purchased & Established by His Son on the Cross who is now King (**Eph. 1:20–23**)
- 2. A Kingdom is More Than Just Geography or Expanding Territory—
—This is a Kingdom that is Not of this world**
 - a) God’s Reign and Rule—in which He Crowned Christ Our King (**Rev 1:5-6 NIV**)
- 3. This is All the Redeemed of All-Time in heaven —
—and All the Redeemed in Real-Time on Earth!**
 - a) We Pray His Kingdom will be ever expanding on earth as it is in heaven.

C. HIS DIVINE WILL *‘Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.’*

- 1. We are taught to pray that God’s will be done on earth as it is in heaven**
- 2. God Knows the End from the Beginning—He Knows what is best**
- 3. We Make Our Requests Known Unto God—but ask that His Will Be Done**
- 4. HOWEVER—This Can Be Done in More than One Way—**
 - **One Way is with Resentment.**

“You will do your will and there is nothing I can do about it anyway.
Your will wins, but I don’t like it.”
 - **Another Way is with a heart of perfect love and trust:**

“Do Your will, because I know it is the best. Change me where I don’t understand or accept Your will.” (Guzik)
 - **Jesus Himself, with sweat as drops of blood In the Garden, the night before His crucifixion, prayed three times for the cup of suffering to be removed—said: *‘but Not MY Will, but THY Will Be Done.’***

**SO GOD IS FIRST—HIS NAME > HIS HOLINESS > HIS KINGDOM > AND HIS WILL
> Ultimately Our Prayers to God Require FAITH, HOPE, and LOVE...**

- a) **To pray: *Our Father*—requires FAITH,**

because he who comes to God must believe that He is.
- b) **To pray: *Your kingdom come*—requires HOPE,**

because we trust it is God’s Plan to Fulfill His Purpose.
- c) **To pray: *Your will be done*—requires LOVE,**

because love is the pure motive to obey all of God’s will. (Guzik, adapted)

II. OUR DAILY NEEDS

Here are 2 things we need everyday: **Daily Bread** and **Daily Forgiveness**

A. **DAILY BREAD...** *‘Give us day by day our daily bread.’*

1. **This is Daily Bread—Not a Warehouse of bread...**
 - a) In the wilderness God provided daily manna for His people.
 - b) But they were only to collect what was needed for that day.
 - c) Any Hoarding of extra manna would mold and rot.
2. **So in prayer We Acknowledge Daily our Complete Dependence on God from whom all blessings flow**
3. **And our Daily Bread would includes the necessities of life (Prov. 30:8-9)**
 - a) Give me neither Poverty or Riches
 - b) Neither too much—or too little
 - c) Keep Me in the Palm of Your Mighty Hand
4. **PAINTING: I’ve seen this painting many times but never understood it...**
 - a) He is Praying a prayer of thanks—not for steak & lobster—but for his daily Bread

B. **DAILY FORGIVENESS...** *‘And forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us.’*

1. **Just as We need daily bread for our Physical health and strength—we also need daily Forgiveness for our Spiritual health and strength.**
2. **There Are TWO MAJOR IMPLICATIONS HERE:**
 - **1st: there ARE NO Christians who are exempt from the need to ask for the forgiveness of their sins every day. (1 John 1:8–10)**

This is about being honest with ourselves and with God...

There are sins of COMMISSION That we Commit against God and others

There are sins of OMISSION: Those things we should’ve done but we didn’t.

“We can only know God well when we know our own sin. All those who have known God without knowing their wretchedness have not glorified Him but have glorified themselves.” –Blaise Pascal

Remember the Two Men Who Went to the Temple to Pray?

THE FIRST: Was a Pharisee: Lord I Thank you That I’m Better than Everybody Else—
—Especially this sinner next to me...

THE OTHER: Was a Tax Collector: Who Would Not Even Lift up his eye to heaven—but he hit himself on the chest and said, Lord, Be Merciful to Me a Sinner

ONE Was Honest with Himself and God—the Other Was NOT...

One Went away Justified by God—the Other Did Not

- **2nd: We Only Receive Forgiveness of our sin AS WE FORGIVE OTHERS**

We ask for the first part—but do we include this second part?

Jesus said the one depends on the other (Matthew 6:14–15)

We call this an **attitude of forgiveness**—We **WANT** to Forgive (Eph 4:32)

A Strong Marriage is two people who want to forgive

III. OUR DAILY DANGERS

A. DANGER OF TEMPTATION... *‘And do not lead us into temptation,’*

1. This does NOT imply that God tempts any man—We know from scripture that God cannot be tempted—not does He tempt anyone (Js 1:13-14)
2. But this is a request FOR Protection FROM Temptation—
that the we do not encounter temptation that would cause us to fall
3. God has given His People a wonderful promise (1 Cor. 10:13).
But We Must Turn to God and Flee from evil in times of temptation
4. If we truly pray, ‘lead us not into temptation’, then we must live by Faith:
 - Never boast in your Self or Your Own Strength.
 - Never go into temptation.
 - Never lead others into temptation.
 - Never play with fire thinking you won’t get burned (Guzik)

B. DANGER OF THE EVIL ONE... *‘But deliver us from the evil one.’*

1. We have a powerful spiritual arch-enemy...
 - a) He wants to divide churches, wreck marriages, destroy families,
2. The Prince of the power of the air who deceive the whole world!
A roaring lion who seeks your eternal destruction.
3. Before going to the Cross—Jesus prayed for His disciples (John 17:15-16)
And He ALSO Prayed for YOU AND ME! (Jn 17:20-23)

C. THIS PRAYER COVERS PRESENT, PAST, and FUTURE!

1. HIS PROVISION FOR OUR PRESENT NEEDS...
2. HIS FORGIVENESS FOR OUR PAST SINS...
3. HIS FAITHFULNESS FOR OUR FUTURE PROTECTION
from Temptations & Deliverance from Evil

CONCLUSION:

1. You Are NOT Bothering God when you Pray...
2. Prayer is an Act of Faith that is Precious and Pleasing to Him...
3. and Gives Glory to Him from whom all blessings flow (Heb 4:15–16)