

In Spirit and Truth – Prayer Lk. 11:1-13

Thesis: To better understand prayer in worship.

Introduction:

As Jesus finishes His prayer, His disciples come to Him and ask Him to teach them how to pray, just as John the baptizer taught His disciples to pray.

I. Jesus tells us what we should say when we pray (11:1-4).

A. We should praise the Father (11:2).

1. **“Our Father in heaven”**
 - a. Our prayer is directed to the Father.
 - b. We pray to the Father through Christ; we do not pray to Christ through the Father.
2. **“Hallowed be Your name”**
 - a. Strong’s: “to make holy, to purify or to consecrate;”
 - b. **Ps. 111:9b** - holy and awesome is His name.
 - c. This is the way that we should feel when we are praying to the Father.
3. **“Your kingdom come”**
 - a. This is in reference to the church.
 - b. Now that His kingdom has come, we now continually pray for that kingdom.
4. **“Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven”**
 - a. This indicates our desire to do His will.
 - b. Some versions omit this phrase from Luke’s account; however, it is in the account rendered by Matthew.
5. The basic idea is that we praise the Father in our prayers.
 - a. **Jn. 17** – This prayer of Jesus is filled with praise for the Father.
 - b. We see another example of this in the prayers of Paul in each of the thirteen epistles that he wrote.

B. We should pray for our physical needs (11:3).

1. We pray for our food that we eat.
 - a. **“Give us day by day our daily bread.”**
 - b. When we pray, we ask God to give us that which we need for this life.
 - c. God knows that we need these things, yet He still wants us to ask for them.
 - 1) **Mt. 6:25-26, 31-34** - Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? {26} Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? {31} Therefore do not worry,

saying, “What shall we eat?” or “What shall we drink?” or “What shall we wear?” {32} For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. {33} But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. {34} Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

- 2) The point is that we must trust in God to provide those things that we need for this life.
 - 3) He does this by providing us jobs as a way to make money to purchase these things.
2. It is also interesting to note that this is a prayer that we make daily.
- a. The idea that Jesus is giving us is that we are to pray daily.

C. We should pray for our spiritual needs (11:4).

1. Forgiveness
 - a. The first part deals with our own need for forgiveness.
 - 1) Rom. 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
 - 2) Because of this sin, we all need forgiveness.
 - b. However, we are only forgiven to the extent that we are willing to forgive others.
 - 1) Jesus says that we “also forgive everyone who is indebted to us.”
 - 2) Mt. 6:14-15 - For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. {15} But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.
 - 3) Eph. 4:32 - And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.
2. Temptation
 - a. “And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”
 - 1) We all need help in fighting temptation because of this evil one.
 - a) I Pet. 5:8 - Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.
 - 2) God promises us this help.
 - a) I Cor. 10:13 - No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.
 - b) Even though God does not tempt us (Js. 1:13), He will help us through that temptation.

II. Jesus tells us that we should be persistent in our prayers (11:5-8).

A. Notice this parable that Jesus tells.

1. Jesus says that these men are friends (11:5).
 - a. They knew each other well.
 - b. These are not two strangers meeting for the first time at midnight.
2. One man wants three loaves of bread because he has had another friend come to him during the night (11:6).
3. The man who was already in bed refuses to give his friend bread because he was in bed and did not intend to rise again (11:7).
4. The main point is this: the man received that which he needed because of his persistence (11:8).

B. We are told in other places throughout the New Testament to be persistent in our prayers.

1. Lk. 18:1-8 – The Parable of the Persistent Widow
 - a. The purpose of this parable is told to us from the very beginning.
 - b. Lk. 18:1 – “that men ought to always pray and not lose heart.”
2. Paul spent a great deal of time teaching us to be persistent in our prayers.
 - a. Eph. 6:18 - praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—
 - b. Phil. 4:6 - Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;
 - c. Col. 4:2 - Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;
 - d. I Thes. 5:16-18 - Rejoice always, {17} pray without ceasing, {18} in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

III. Jesus promises that our prayers will be answered (11:9-13).

A. In order to receive these blessings, we must ask.

1. God already knows what we need, yet He still wants us to ask.
 - a. Mt. 6:32 - For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.
 - b. When we ask for these things, even though we know that God knows what we need, it shows humility on our part and an understanding that we cannot provide these things on our own.
2. The promise is made that if we ask, we will receive (11:9-10).
 - a. “ask, and it will be given to you;”
 - b. “seek, and you will find;”
 - c. “knock, and it will be opened to you.”
3. God knows how to give us the good things (11:11-13).
 - a. An earthly father knows how to give his own son the good things (11:11-12).

- b. If we, as men, can know how to give the good things, then we need to understand that God can do even more.

B. There are certain qualifications that we must meet in order for our prayers to be answered in a favorable manner.

1. Remember, in the context of the passage, Jesus is speaking with His disciples; therefore they would naturally meet these qualifications.
2. Our attitude in prayer must be that of humility.
 - a. **Lk. 18:9-14**
 - b. **II Chr. 7:13-14** (God speaking to Solomon) - When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, {14} if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.
3. We must ask according to the will of God.
 - a. **I Jn. 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. {15} And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.
4. We must ask in faith that we will receive what we ask for.
 - a. **Mk. 11:23-24** - For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, "Be removed and be cast into the sea," and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will come to pass, he will have whatever he says. {24} Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.
5. We must be faithful to God in order to receive what we ask for.
 - a. **Js. 5:16** - Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.
 - b. **I Jn. 3:22** - And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.
 - c. **Jn. 15:7** - If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.
6. If we are true disciples, then we will have no trouble meeting these qualifications for God answering our prayer.
7. **IMPORTANT:** Sometimes the answer to our prayers may be no, but God promises that He will answer them.
 - a. We have to trust in Him to give us that which is truly best for us, not that which seems best to us.

Conclusion:

- I. Jesus tells us what we should say when we pray (11:1-4).
- II. Jesus tells us that we should be persistent in our prayers (11:5-8).
- III. Jesus promises that our prayers will be answered (11:9-13).