

"LORD TEACH US TO PRAY"

Int.

1. Aim: To show how we are to pray to God
2. 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."
 - a. They did not know how to talk to God.
 - b. They needed instruction
 - c. Jesus gave them an example, a model prayer and they were to copy it. Mt. 6:9-13
3. Children learn how to talk
 - a. They begin with sounds that are not clear
 - b. Gradually they improve and can pronounce a few words
 - c. Finally they become very efficient in talking
4. Many Christians do not know how to talk [pray] to God
 - a. They can learn how to pray
 - b. These disciples wanted to learn and we must also desire to learn
 - c. Prayer is an important factor in being a faithful child of God.
 - d. We must learn how to pray

Discussion

I. HOW SHOULD WE PRAY ?

A. With the Spirit and the understanding

1. 1 Cor. 14:15 "What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also."
2. Spirit = that is according to the instructions of God's Word. We could not pray for the salvation of a person who will not obey the commands of God!
3. Understanding = In the context he was discussing spiritual gifts and speaking in different languages. He was saying they would pray in a language so that those who hear can understand. A person leading public prayer should speak so those who are in the audience can hear and understand the prayer.

B. Luke 11:2-4 "2. So He said to them, "When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. 3 Give us day by day our daily bread. 4 And forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.""

1. Our Father which art in heaven -
2. Hallowed be thy name - Holy - Adored
3. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth, -
 - a. Submit your will to God's. Put his will first in your life, in your marriage, family, career, ministry, money, body, relationships, church.

- b. Prayer is not for the purpose of getting our will done in heaven, but rather, is for the purpose of getting God's will done on earth
4. Give us day by day our daily bread - depend upon God
5. And Forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us.
6. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. Pray for protection from evil and victory over temptation

C. Prayers should be ADDRESSED UNTO GOD

1. Not to be addressed to Mary the mother of Jesus
2. Paul said "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved." Rom. 10:1
3. Jesus taught us to pray "Our Father who art in heaven" Mt. 6:9

D. Pray in the name OF CHRIST

1. We do not pray unto Christ, but unto God in the name of Christ
2. Col. 3:17 "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, [do] all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."
3. 1 Tim. 2:5 - Jesus is our mediator — "For [there is] one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;"
4. John 14:6 Jesus says : "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

II. HOW LONG SHOULD OUR PRAYERS BE ?

- A. This depends on the place
 - 1. Public - short
 - 2. Private - could be long or short, may pray all night

- B. We have all heard long prayers in public assembly
 - 1. God will not hear us for our abundance of speaking - Mt. 6:7 "And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words."
 - 2. Public prayers in N.T. were always short - never long
 - 3. Christ sometimes prayed all night long
 - 4. Many prayers are too long because the person tries to give instructions to God
 - 5. Others are too long because the prayer is used for announcements or to preach a sermon.

- C. Peter's prayer was not long
 - 1. Beginning to sink into the water
 - 2. If his prayer had been long he would have sunk into the lake, before he could have finished his prayer.
 - 3. He needed help and he went straight to the point "Lord, save me." Mt. 14:30

III. WATCH AND PRAY

- A. Col. 4:2 "Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;"
- Matt.26:41 "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."
1. Watch = vigilant - alertly watchful especially to avoid danger, stay awake
 2. It is just as necessary to watch as it is to pray
 3. Be on guard against temptation while we pray to God to deliver us
 4. Watch for all those things that would hinder prayer
- B. Keep eyes open to pitfalls in life's pathway

IV. PUT ACTION INTO OUR PRAYERS

- A. Man must help in answering his prayers
1. Matt. 7:7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."
 2. We pray for daily bread, but we don't expect God to rain down loaves of bread from heaven.
 3. He will give the bread when we have earned it with the sweat of our brow.
 4. Ill. The wife of a New York advertising man was putting their seven year old son to bed and said, George, "say your prayers." He began: "Dear God, please bless Mom and Dad and give us this day our oven-baked, slow-rising, vitamin-enriched bread."

- B. III. Woman had a husband who was not a member of the church
1. She asked the preacher during a meeting to speak to her husband about his salvation
 2. He asked her if she had ever spoken to him on the subject of salvation
 3. She said "No".
 4. The preacher said he would not speak to him until she had tried.
 5. She prayed and asked for courage to speak to her husband about his salvation
 6. When he came in that night she talked to him. He told her he was wondering why she had failed to speak to him about this subject and he wanted to become a Christian.
 7. That is putting action into your prayers.

V. WHERE SHOULD WE PRAY ?

A. In private

1. Mt. 6:6 = Closet "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly."
2. All houses do not have closets, but the idea is that we pray in privacy instead of being a hypocrite
3. Mt. 6:5 "And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites [are]: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward."
4. They stood on the street corner so people could see them from all 4 directions

5. Private prayer is to be private, and God who sees in secret can hear and will reward and answer
6. Jesus prayed privately to God in the Garden

B. In Public

1. The church had its birth in a prayer meeting - Acts 1:13-14
2. Acts 12:12 "... Where many were gathered together praying...."
3. Jesus prayed in Public - Lk. 11:1 "And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."
4. Paul exhorted the saints to meet for prayer - Rom. 15:30 "Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in [your] prayers to God for me:"

C. In our Family

1. Cornelius prayed to God with his family - Acts 10:2 "[A] devout [man], and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway."
2. Job practiced family religion - Job. 1:5 "And it was so, when the days of [their] feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings [according] to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually."
3. Joshua said: "As for me and my house we will serve the Lord." Josh. 24:15

4. Family prayer is a necessity today
 - a. The family that prays together stays together
 - b. Eph. 6:4
- D. Where should be pray? Privately, publicly and with our family

VI. A HELPFUL ACROSTIC IN LEARNING TO PRAY IS "A-C-T-S"...

A. A = ADORATION

1. Praising God
2. A good example of this is found in 1 Chr. 29:10-13
3. Spending time in sincere praise of God's greatness will help put us in the proper spirit of humility

B. C = CONFESSION

1. Acknowledging our sins before God
2. When we understand how sin can break the fellowship we have with God, we naturally desire its quick remission
3. Fortunately, as Christians we can be cleansed by the blood of Jesus as we confess our sins - 1 Jn 1:9

C. T = THANKSGIVING

1. This is an important part of prayer, even those in which we are making requests - Ph 4:6 "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."
2. The benefits of giving thanks are many:
 - a. Causes us to acknowledge God's existence, love, and care

- b. Reminds us of His goodness
 - c. Helps to shift our focus from what we don't have to what we do have
3. The kind of things to be thankful for:
- a. Things we can see in our lives...
 - (1) Health --- Family and friends
 - (2) God's guidance, answers to previous prayers
 - b. Things we may not be able to see...
 - (1) Our adoption as His children
 - (2) The forgiveness of sins and The hope of eternal life
 - (3) The assurance of His continued presence
 - c. God's people have every reason to be thankful, and to be known for
"abounding in thanksgiving" - Co 1:12; 2:7; 3:15; 4:2

D. **S = SUPPLICATION**

- 1. Making requests of God - Ph 4:6 "Requests"
- 2. If we are faithful in including the first three (adoration, confession, thanksgiving), this last will prevent prayer from being simply a spiritual "shopping list"

CONCLUSION

1. Do you pray?
2. If not, it is probably because you do not know how
3. Use the model prayer as an example
 - a. Lk. 11:1-4
 - b. Mt. 6:9-13
4. The only way you will ever learn to pray is by praying
5. Lk. 18:1 "And he spake a parable unto them [to this end], that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;"
6. Learn how to pray for prayer can change your life!!!
7. 1 Pet. 3:7 "...that your prayers be not hindered"
 - a. Sin will cause our prayers to be hindered
 - b. God does not hear the sinners - 1 Pet. 3:12
8. Are you on praying terms with God ?