
WITH CHRIST

IN THE SCHOOL OF PRAYER

A 31-Day Quiet Time Series | Week 1

Day 1... THE ONLY TEACHER: Lord, teach us to pray.

Luke 11:1

"One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.'"

Although they had spent a lot of time walking, talking, listening and seeing Jesus, they did not think they knew everything there was to learn. This humility drove them to make this request... Teach us to pray. No matter how long we have been disciples, there is great value in having a heart of Teach Me, even with the basics...

[Proverbs 11:2](#) | [Proverbs 22:4](#)

By applying humility to learning how to pray, the benefit you reap is wisdom, riches, honor and life.
- **What would having a "teach me" heart look like for you at this point in discipleship?**

Read [James 5:16-18](#)

Prayer is simple, yet it is the highest and holiest work a person can do!

- **Are your prayers this powerful?** Then your heart should say, *O Lord, teach me to pray!*
- **Are your prayers this practical?** Then your mouth should say, *O Lord, teach me to pray!*
- Lastly, **prayer is where the promises of God in heaven meet their fulfillment on earth...** What a great responsibility! *O Lord, teach me to pray!*

Day 2... THE TRUE WORSHIPPERS: In spirit and truth.

John 4:23-24

"Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

Jesus lays out three classes of worship:
Ignorant Worship of Samaritans ([v.20](#))...
Intelligent Worship of Jews ([v.22](#))...
Spiritual Worship through the Christ ([v.24](#)).

For us, there are three classes of prayers:
Ignorant Prayers... Intelligent Prayers... Spiritual Prayers.

Ignorant Prayers ([Matthew 6:7](#)) - Not knowing who you are praying, or what you are praying for. Babbling on, often do not even remember what was prayed for. Lastly, receiving little to nothing in terms of answer to prayer as a result.

Intelligent Prayers ([Mark 8:22-25](#)) - Earnestly seeking God and trying to pray with heart and mind. You pray often, and receive some answers to pray.

Spiritual Prayer - Well, this is what Jesus wants to teach us in his school of prayer!

But, here's what we know about praying in Spirit and in Truth...

Spirit of our Sonship: [Romans 8:15-17](#) - Implies we have the spirit. By this spirit we are adopted and can call the Almighty God, Abba or Daddy!

Truth of God's Promises: [Matthew 7:7-8](#) - Here, God has laid out his promises in regards to prayer. The prayer in truth takes God up on these promises and gains the answers!

LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY!

Day 3... ALONE WITH GOD: Pray to your Father, who is unseen.

Matthew 6:6

"But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

Unseen with your Unseen Father.

There is something special about meeting God where He is, unseen places. There is something practical also, about being unseen and how it takes away distractions.

- How would praying in unseen places help your prayer life?

Father.

God has a lot of names. **Elohim**: Creator, Mighty-one, Strong-one. **Adonai**: Lord. **Yahweh**: I Am Who I Am or Self-existent one. But in Jesus' school of prayer, he teaches us a new name that we can call God, and by doing so, introduces us to a new kind of relationship... **Father**.

Just as a child has little to offer his earthly father, and as the earthly father does not expect it... So it is with God and us. Instead of thinking about how little you have to offer God, think about how much God wants to give you!

- What difference does it make to embrace God as your Dad in prayer?

LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY!

Day 4... THE MODEL PRAYER: This, then, is how you should pray.

Matthew 6:9

"This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name'"

We tend to put our needs first, only to think about God's desires at the end of our prayers. Jesus, however, reverses the order.

"The sooner I learn to forget myself in the desire that HE may be glorified, the richer will the blessing be that prayer will bring to myself."

- Andrew Murray

Let us break down the model prayer:

"Hallowed be your name"

The name being referred to is that of Father. In the Old Testament, the central theme was God's holiness. In the New Testament, the new theme is God's Fatherliness. Hallowed or Holy is this new and closer relationship we get to enjoy with God!

"Your kingdom come, your will be done"

Out of this new relationship with God as our Dad, it naturally follows that we will want the same things that our Dad wants. **Imagine how amazing life would be if all of God's children prayed for and lived for His will to be done!**

Starting off our time of prayer focusing on our relationship with God and what he wants, puts everything else into perspective. Now, with a mind set on pleasing God, we can ask for the things that we need.

"Give us today our daily bread"

Having our physical needs taken care of helps us to give ourselves wholly to spiritual matters. Not that we depend on the physical in order to do the spiritual... but how incredible is God that He allows us to pray even for the temporal things!

"And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors"

The condition of our heart matters to God. If we are harboring feelings toward anyone else by not forgiving them, this affects our ability to be forgiven by God. Notice that in Jesus' model prayer here, the person is able to ask forgiveness because they know there is no one they have not forgiven!

"And lead us not into temptation"

This part is proactive prayer. My prayer tends to be, "help me, I'm being tempted!" But in teaching us how to pray, Jesus wants us to pray proactively, as to avoid even being tempted!

O LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY!

Day 5... THE CERTAINTY OF THE ANSWER TO PRAYER: Ask, and it shall be given to you.

Matthew 7:7-8

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."

James 4:3

"When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures."

Ask, seek, knock all have their meaning. It seems to the author that to "ask" has to do with gifts that the Father so gladly offers. To "seek" would be to seek the Giver of gifts. Not just in it for the rewards but for the Rewarder. Lastly "knock" would be to abide in the residence of that Giver. To be at home with God Himself!

- Which motivates you more to pray right now in your life... the rewards of prayer OR your relationship with the Rewarder?

God uses repetition here to drill in the certainty of the answer to prayer... It's as if God knows our hearts and how difficult this promise would be for us to embrace. To good to be true right?!

While we believe God is the *Hearer* of all prayer, we believe less that God is the *Answerer* of all prayer.

If we pray and do not receive, it is because WE are not praying right... Either unbelief, or selfish motives. Because the promise of God is that he that ask, receives. Period.

We tend to add to the word of God by saying "if it's the Lord's will." God has made His will known in prayer, ask and receive. It is now up to us to either embrace God's true will of ask and receive, OR continue being limited by a misused caveat that

renders your prayer life powerless. (James 4:15 has to do with plans not prayer!)

Andrew Murray writes, "Let us withdraw the request, if it be not according to God's mind, or preserve till the answer come." Either way, be certain that God intends to answer the request in prayer.

- How does expectation of God's answer change the way you should pray?

LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY!

Day 6... THE INFINITE FATHERLINESS OF GOD: How much more?

Matthew 7:9-11

"Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!"

Though you are evil.

Jesus starts off by establishing a baseline, a standard. He uses the example of a man, flaws and all, becoming a parent. Jesus wants you to place yourself as this loving parent entertaining the requests of their beloved child.

Never would you *deliberately* give the child you love something that would be harmful! If a child asks for fish, you would have to go well out of your way to give him a snake. No one, in their right mind, would do such a thing.

Then he drops the bomb...

If you, then, *though you are evil*, know how to give good gifts to your children... (wait for it)... **how much more** will your Father in heaven?!

- Close your eyes and think of the greatest example of a father here on earth and his interaction with giving to his child's reasonable request.

- Then meditate on "how much more" God is greater than even that father, and "how much more" God wants to hear and answer the requests of **you** his son or daughter.

The children of the most powerful leaders, successful entrepreneurs, glamorous Hollywood stars, all have an influence over their parents that few relationships trump. As the child of God that you are, you have the ear and heart of the God who created everything that exists!

Andrew Murray writes:

"In all compassion with which a father listens to his weak or sickly child, in all the joy with which he hears his stammering child, in all the gentle patience with which he bears with a thoughtless child, we must, as in so many mirrors, study the

heart of our Father, until every prayer be borne upward on the faith of this Divine word: How much more shall your Heavenly Father give good gifts to them that ask Him."

LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY!

Day 7... THE ALL COMPREHENSIVE GIFT: How much more the Holy Spirit.

Luke 11:13

"If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Our last QT was such a great concept to grasp, you may want to start today by reviewing what you learned yesterday...

Best Gift Given.

Now, with God's Infinite Fatherliness in mind, Jesus teaches us what the best gift we could ever receive is... the Holy Spirit!

Most parents want for their children to become better than they are themselves, and to do greater things than they themselves have done. Since this is not possible with God, He desires for us the next best thing. For us to be like **Him**.

Our Father wants us to grow more like Him in heart and mind. So to accomplish this, Jesus teaches us that from here on out, we only have to ask and the Father will give us the gift of becoming more and more like Him.

(Since a person receives the Holy Spirit through repentance and baptism, this particular giving of the Holy Spirit has nothing to do with salvation or miraculous gifts, but rather conformity to God.)

Best Gift to Ask For.

Not only is this the best gift to receive, this is the best gift to seek.

Historically, the Holy Spirit has been something that God has given out selectively, at His initiation rather than by the request of man.

Jesus, however, ushered in a new relationship with God, as Father, and lays out a promise here for all time. The same Father who loves to give good gifts, promises to give more conformity to Himself to whoever would ask Him for it.

THEREFORE, if the Holy Spirit (conformity to God) is the primary gift given, then prayer for the Holy Spirit (conformity to God), must also be the primary object of prayer.

- Pray today for the Holy Spirit, and watch as God gives you opportunities to conform to Himself!

LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY!