

Prayer

In Luke 11:1-13 we hear some of Jesus' thoughts on prayer. It is evident from Luke's Gospel that Jesus prays often (Luke 3:21; 5:16; 6:12; 9:18, 28). Jesus' disciples have no doubt noticed His prayerfulness and in this passage they ask Him to teach them how to pray (Luke 11:1). Jesus starts His instruction by saying "when you pray." For the follower of Christ, prayer is not a matter of if, but when. That isn't to say that prayer is some heartless command, rather it is the natural result of a belief in a personal God.

What follows is what has come to be known as "The Lord's Prayer." The prayer is also recorded in Matthew 6:9-13.

Matthew 6:9-13 New International Version (NIV)

⁹ "This, then, is how you should pray:

"Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,

¹⁰ your kingdom come,
your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us today our daily bread.

¹² And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ And lead us not into temptation, ^[a]
but deliver us from the evil one. ^[b]'

Question Time:

1. Why did the disciples ask Jesus about prayer?
2. Did Jesus say this is the only way to pray? No.
3. Do you know the best way to pray? **Answer:** In a quiet place by yourself if possible, on your knees to show humility, begin by addressing God such as; "Dear Lord and Heavenly Father", thank him for blessings received, ask him

for things that will bring you closer to Him and for things to happen that are according to His will and finally close by saying, “In Jesus name I pray, Amen.”

Scripture:

Does God hear our prayers during the time of Coronavirus?

John 9:31 New International Version (NIV)

³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. We know that a lot of Godly people have been praying to the Lord regarding this pandemic.

James 5:16 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. Prayer for those affected by the virus will be appreciated.

1 John 5:14-15 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁴ This is the confidence we have in approaching God: 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 what we asked of him. God has a purpose in all things. It is part of the prayer that those affected will come closer to Him and many will come to know Him as their personal Savior.

Matthew 26:39 New International Version (NIV)

³⁹ Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.” Jesus asked God to take the upcoming crucifixion away, but as we know God’s plan was for Jesus to be crucified for our sins. God has greater plans than we can understand.

Next Steps: Practice the steps to prayer with your parents. Make a list of things you want to thank God for due to His blessings and then make a list of things you want to ask of Him according to His will.