

## AF A9 BIBLE STUDY: “Teach Us to Pray” Luke 11

Scripture of Lesson: Luke’s Gospel 11: 1-13

### 1. Prayer life of Lord Jesus

- A. Our Lord Jesus, though He was the Son of God, never ceased to ask His Father for help and strength because He was carrying out God’s mission as a human, living among the people.

*who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. [Hebrews 5: 7-8]*

### B. Instances of Jesus’ prayer

- i. When He was baptized – Luke 3:21

*When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened.*

- ii. He prayed often during His evangelical mission in Galilee.

*Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed. [Mark 1: 35]*

*So, He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed. [Luke 5: 16]*

*And it happened, as He was alone praying, that His disciples joined Him, and He asked them, saying, “Who do the crowds say that I am?” [Luke 9: 18]*

- iii. He was praying when He was transfigured – Luke 9: 29

*As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening.*

- iv. He prayed before giving the model prayer – 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.”*

- v. He prayed earnestly in Gethsemane in the face of the coming judgment, torture and death – Matt 26: 39-44; Mark 14: 32-33; Luke 22: 39-44

*He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”*

### C. Why did Lord Jesus pray so often and so diligently?

- i. Because He is our High Priest
- ii. Because He wanted to have communion with His Father every day
- iii. Because He needed God’s help with His mission

### D. Our need of faithful prayer life

- i. We need to pray often and regularly because we are God’s children. As His children, we want to draw near to Him and have fellowship with Him daily.
- ii. We need to pray as we our own needs. Through prayers our soul’s needs are satisfied and we get to enjoy true peace and joy as a result.
- iii. We need to pray as we see the needs of our neighbors as Christ sees. Our prayers for those in need are expressions of our love for them as Jesus cared and loved them.

- iv. We need to pray for God's kingdom according to God's plan and desires. Our yearning and hopeful expectation are in God's kingdom that is to come. This prayer will cause our hearts' purpose in heaven and help us value the treasures of heaven rather than the passing things of this world.

## 2. The Model Prayer – what it means

### A. "Our Father in heaven"

Through this part of prayer, we confess that God is our Father as we have been born again into God's family through Jesus Christ. We also confess that God is the Creator of heaven and earth and His realm covers the entire universe as He rules it from His throne in heaven.

### B. "Hallowed by Your name"

Through this statement we express our desire to lift up the name of God, not only with our words but through our spirit and everyday life. The way to do so is to make clear through our words and actions that God is the almighty God of heaven and earth, He is the author and sustainer of all living things, and He alone governs the whole universe so that He deserves our dedicated praise and honor.

### C. "Your kingdom come"

The essence of the gospel message is "Kingdom of God has come near." God's grand plan for the whole heaven and earth is to establish His kingdom that spans the heaven and the earth. A kingdom requires three things: the king, the people and the territory. God's heavenly kingdom has been established eternity ago. His kingdom on earth needs to be established. To form a people to His own God chose Abraham through whose descendants He would build up a nation of people whom He calls "My people."

By this prayer "Your kingdom come," we express our earnest longing for God's kingdom to be established here on the earth. It will be established with Lord Jesus as its king as He returns to the earth the second time with His faithful chosen people and begin His reign over the entire world for a thousand years.

### D. "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven"

God's throne has been established in heaven eternity ago, but His will is not being lived in nations, kingdoms and peoples of the earth yet. The gospel of Christ is being preached to bring people to come to God as His people so that God's good will and plan are fulfilled in their lives as they are fulfilled in heaven. Through this prayer we express our desire and willingness to have Jesus as our king and submit our desires, plans and will to be subject to God's desires, plans and will daily. This is the only sure way to enter God's true blessings.

### E. "Give us day by day our daily bread"

When a baby is born into a family, its parents clean, feed and take all care to ensure the baby's health, happiness and growth. Likewise, when a person is born again as a child of God into His family, God takes personal charge to feed and sustain him/her. We are in the best possible place when we become children of God because God is the creator and sustainer of the entire universe. By this prayer "give us day by day our daily bread," we recognize this wonderful truth, express our dependence on God's sustenance as well as our thankfulness for His blessings that come to us every day, both spiritually and naturally.

### F. "And forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us."

This prayer is the most difficult prayer to many people, particularly to those who live morally clean lives with the highest standard of morality and standards of behavior. Because of their moral as well as spiritual rectitude, they find it difficult to forgive the failures of others who do not come to their standards. Especially when someone offends them, either intentionally or just because that is their way of doing things, morally clean Christians easily shun them from their circle of fellowship and exclude them from possibility of forgiveness.

But, let us remember that our Savior Jesus went through the cruel death on the cross even though He was sinless. He bore the pain of humiliation of being judged as a criminal, the extreme physical punishments and finally the cruelest type of death on the cross. Moreover, He went down to Sheol, the place of the dead, although He is God, from which God raised Him alive and He was lifted to heaven to sit at the right hand of God and is interceding on behalf of all repentant sinners. When we consider His suffering on our behalf, how can we not forgive the offenses that others have committed toward us? Whether such offenders come to repentance or not is their responsibility. What God expects from us is to forgive others so that He can forgive us. Otherwise, He finds it difficult to forgive us.

G. “And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”

This part of the Lord’s prayer is often misunderstood. Some people think that God leads us to temptations, but it is not true. The context of this prayer is “Please lead us so that we do not fall into temptation, away from the evil one.” Therefore, this prayer is an expression of a desire to be led each way by the Holy Spirit so that we learn the wisdom to know how to avoid evil but rather to stay within God’s circle of blessings.

H. Lord’s encouragement to pray for the gift of Holy Spirit

Lord Jesus encouraged His disciples to earnestly pray and seek God’s blessings:

*So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him! [Luke 11: 9-13]*

Here He describes the nature of God as Father in response to His children’s prayers in comparison to a human father’s nature. So, we have this wonderful promise of Holy Spirit, which is granted to those who ask.

### 3. Lessons for us

- A. Let us be diligent with our prayers daily. Prayer is the lifeline of our spiritual life. The life of Jesus in us is fed and sustained through prayers. We receive unexplainable blessings from God through prayers. Let us pray often, with all sincerity and devotion.
- B. Let us pray with the model prayer as the correct pattern – pray to honor and glorify God first in our lives, pray for His kingdom and the kingship of Lord Jesus in our personal lives, forgive others’ offenses and then ask for God’s forgiveness and cleansing of our sins in full repentance and desire for correction, and seek God’s wisdom to stay away from evil and to stay within His circle of blessings.