

Teach Us to Pray

Luke 11:1-13

Introduction: Prayer – to entreat, implore, beg, beseech, plead, praise, thank, confess, petition. Praying is speaking or talking to God.

I. How to Pray (Matt. 6:9-13; Luke 11:1-4)

A. This prayer is not the Lord's Prayer.

1. Jesus gives this prayer as an example prayer.
2. Jesus would not personally ask for his sins to be forgiven (Heb. 4:15).

3. Therefore, it's a prayer given for instructional purposes only.

B. What do we notice about the mechanics in prayer.

1. Starts by addressing God (Matt. 6:9; Luke 11:2; Col. 1:3).
2. Our requests, etc. are given next (Matt. 6:10-13; Luke 11:2-4).
3. It concludes with "Amen" (Matt. 6:13).

C. We are also required to pray through Christ our mediator (1 Tim. 2:5; **Heb. 7:25**).

1. Our words in prayer must be given by His authority (Col. 3:17).

2. Therefore, we conclude all prayers recognizing our permission by Christ's authority to address God (i.e. "In Jesus' name").

D. Considerations in public prayer (1 Cor. 14:15-16).

1. Others cannot say "Amen" if they can not hear your prayer; understand what you said in your prayer, or disagree with what you said in prayer. "Amen" means "so let it be." When we say "Amen" to a public prayer we make that prayer our own prayer.

2. Others cannot say "Amen" if we fail to address God in some manner or fail to recognize Christ's authority in some manner.

3. Understanding the prayer is a prerequisite to saying "Amen." One common mistake made in prayer is beginning a prayer with "continuing in prayer." If the previous prayer was concluded with "Amen," what are we continuing? More often than not, I've notice that those who use "continuing in prayer" fail to address God in that prayer.

E. Prayers do not need to be long. The example prayer Jesus gave His disciples was only 66 words long (Matt. 6:9-13).

II. Does it matter who leads the prayer?

A. What if the one praying is living in sin (Jn. 9:31)? God won't hear him but He will hear a righteous person who says "Amen" in agreement with that same prayer.

B. What if the sinner recognizes his sinful state?

1. He could ask a righteous man to pray for him (Jas. 5:15-16).
2. Simon the Sorcerer was instructed by Peter to pray for his own sin once repentant (Acts 8:22); however, Simon asked a righteous man to pray for him (Acts 8:24).

III. Does our posture matter? No single position has ever been bound in scripture.

- A. Some stood and bowed (Luke 18:13; Matt. 6:5; Mark 11:25).
- B. Some kneeled (Luke 22:41; Acts 7:60; 9:40; 20:36; 21:5).
- C. Jesus fell on His face in the garden before His crucifixion (Matt. 26:39).

IV. Other considerations:

- A. Pray always (1 Thess. 5:17; Eph. 6:18).
- B. Pray in secret (Matt. 6:5-6).
- C. Pray according to his will (1 John 5:14-15).

Conclusion: Prayer is a Privilege we should not take lightly.