

“*The Pattern of Prayer*”

Prayer is the spiritual lifeline for Christians. Without it neither we ourselves, nor our church, will accomplish anything.

The Person of Prayer. — Jesus.

“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.” - Luke 11:1

The Pattern of Prayer.

A. The Recognition of our Source — Father God

“He said to them, “When you pray, say: “Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come.” - Luke 11:2

1) A relationship with the Father.

“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!” - John 15:13

2) A reliance on the Father.

“Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead?” - John 15:11

3) A respect for the Father.

“Father, **hallowed be your name**, your kingdom come.” - John 15:2

B. The Resignation of our Selfishness.

“...say: “Father, hallowed be your name, **your kingdom come**.” - Luke 11:2

C. The Renewal of our Supply.

“Give us each day our daily bread.” - Luke 11:3

D. The Repentance of our Sins.

“Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.” - Luke 11:4

E. The Realization of our Shortcomings.

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” - Matthew 6:13

F. The Rejoicing of our Saviour.

“For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.” - Matthew 6:13

The Parable of Prayer.

A. The Dilemma.

“Then He said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, ⁶because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him.’”

- Luke 11:5,6

B. The Determination.

“Then the one inside answers, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.’ ⁸I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man’s boldness he will get up and give him as much as he needs.”

- Luke 11:7,8

C. The Difference between this man and Jesus:

- 1) With God it is never midnight.
- 2) My requests never bother God.
- 3) God is never taken by surprise.
- 4) God meets my needs from a pure motive.

The Progression of Prayer.

“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.” - Luke 11:9,10

The Progression:

- 1) Asking — bring your requests to God
- 2) Seeking — asking plus action
- 3) Knocking — asking plus action plus perseverance

The Promise of Prayer.

“Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? ¹²Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³If 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!” - Luke 11:11-13

Richard Foster, in *Celebration of Discipline*, says, “To pray is to change. Prayer is the central avenue that God uses to transform us, and if we are unwilling to change, we will abandon prayer as a noticeable characteristic of our lives.”

Our loving Father wants to meet our needs. Will you ask Him?

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A. The _____ of our _____ — Father God

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B. The _____ of our _____.

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