

PRAY !
“First Things First” – Week 2
January 8, 2012

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray...” *Luke 11:1 (NIV)*

Prayer is to SPIRITUAL life as breathing is to physical life.

“Prayer is the gymnasium of the soul.” **-Samuel W. Zwemer**

READ Matthew 6:5-13.

The “disciple’s prayer” is a PATTERN intended to teach us how to pray the will of God.

This prayer is a model to FOLLOW, not a form for us to RECITE.

How does Jesus say we should pray?

1. Pray to the FATHER.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

“Our” reminds us of the relationship we share with other Christians and the fact that none of us is an ONLY child.

“Father” reminds us of the relationship we have with God.

“Praise is the proper punctuation mark for answered prayer.” **-Unknown**

2. Pray for GOD’S kingdom to come and his will to be done.
...your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
God’s desire must become OUR desire.

Jesus came for one PURPOSE: to do the will of the Father.
Pray for God’s will to be done.

A God-honoring prayer:

“Good morning God. I love you! What are you up to today? Whatever it is, I want to be a part of it!”

3. Pray for NEEDS to be met.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Our Lord is concerned about our needs, but he wants us to see those needs in the context of his HIGHER purposes.

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; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened Which of you, if his 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! Matthew 7:7-11

4. Pray for FORGIVENESS.

Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Debts in this context are SINS.

We are to pray that God forgives us in the same way we forgive OTHERS.

If we are not forgiving toward one another, we cannot live in fellowship with one another, and if we cannot live in fellowship with each other, we cannot be in fellowship with the LORD.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins, and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1John 1:9

5. Pray for DELIVERANCE.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

As long as we live in this world, we will be subject to TRIALS and TEMPTATIONS, but God will enable us to resist and withstand whatever comes against us:

Since he himself has gone through suffering and temptation, he is able to help us when we are being tempted. Hebrews 2:18 (NLT)

Jesus is interceding for us, himself.

“If I could hear Christ praying for me in the next room, I would not fear a million enemies. Yet distance makes no difference. He is praying for me.”
-Robert Murray McCheyne

“Keep praying, and be thankful that God’s answers are wiser than your prayers.”
-William Culbertson

Beginning Books on Prayer

Prayer: The Great Adventure

Too Busy Not to Pray

How to Pray

David Jeremiah

Bill Hybels

R.A. Torrey

Deeper Works on Prayer

Deepening Your Conversation With God

Prayer

The Transforming Power of Prayer

With Christ in the School of Prayer

Ben Patterson

Richard Foster

James Houston

Andrew Murray