

**All Citizens Christian Church Calgary**

**Bible Study:** Tuesday, January 2nd 2023. **Topic: THE MODEL PRAYER Part 1**

**Luke 11:1-4, Matt 6:5-13**

**INTRODUCTION**: One of the challenges some Christians find themselves in is not been able pray the way they want to or not praying at all. Some have not even been able to appreciate the need for prayers. There may be several reasons for this, one of the obvious reasons is the availability of time and another reason could be the knowledge on how to pray while sadly some may not even see the dividend of prayers. There are reasons for this also. Some may tell you that the non-Christians do not pray, yet they get results in life so why should they pray.

Prayer is an old spiritual practice which is a communication between the physical and the spiritual. Gen 4:26. It basically entails requesting for a spiritual help from a higher power. It takes understanding, relationship, deliberate efforts and knowledge to pray and get effective results. Unfortunately, because the divine is invisible, many people cannot appreciate the business of praying. This is also one of the biggest tricks of the devil to this generation. The devil creates a fake narrative that everything depends on us so he could ultimately subject us to his manipulations. Even when we find ourselves in the most bizarre circumstance, the enemy of our soul wants us to read a physical dimension to the issue so he may have the upper hand in our lives as a result of our ignorance. This was why Apostle Peter said in I Peter 5:8 that Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

Prayer was one of the operations that characterized the ministry of Jesus. He was often found praying publicly and privately. The result was obvious in His ministry. His disciples saw him praying on many occasions and they wanted to understand the rudiments of prayer as they saw results. This may have prompted them to ask Jesus to teach them to pray.

Jesus therefore responded to their request by teaching them how to pray with the famous prayer model as mentioned in Luke 11:1-4 and Matt 6:5-13.

**OUTLINE:**

The Lord’s prayer is a model and not something that should be recited.

Compare and contrast the narrative of Matthew with that of Luke.

1. When you pray. Prayer is not an if affair but a when affair
2. Prayer should be directed to a being who is our Father.
3. There must be an element or reverence and worship when we pray.
4. We must be focused and letting His will be paramount on earth as it operates in heaven.
5. Bring our needs before Him
6. Ask for forgiveness of sins
7. Ask for guidance as we navigate this world
8. Ask for deliverance from the hands of the evil one

In Matthew,

1. Prayer should not be a show off and somethings that has to do with competition
2. There should be some secrecy when it comes to praying.
3. The reward of prayer is open.
4. On how to pray, do not use vain repetition.

To some, prayer has become a show off or a display of piety of sort. This is what Jesus spoke against in Matthew 6.

The questions that many seek to answer when it comes to prayer are

1. **Why do we pray?**
2. **When do we pray? Morning evening or afternoon. –Psalm 5: 1-3, 55**

**;17, Eph 6: 18, Luke 18:1, I Thess 5:17, Rom 12:12.**

1. **How do we pray?**
2. **To whom do we pray?**

One excellent place to dig deeper into the discussion on prayer is to examine the Lord’s Prayer.

1. **Why do we pray:** The disciples asked to be taught to pray. There must be a reason why the asked the Lord to teach them to pray. They also acknowledged that John taught his disciples to pray. One good way to examine why people pray therefore is to look at the life of Jesus and John. John 3:2, Matt 11:11.

Life is full of unknowns which brings anxiety. If someone says he knows about tomorrow, wouldn’t you ask that fellow for help? Interestingly, we have a God who is Omniscient, Omnipresent and Omnipotent. Don’t we think that approaching this fellow could bring us some peace.

* 1. Phil 4:6-7 To eliminate anxiety and bring peace
  2. II Cor 10:5, Eph 6:12. Confronts spiritual challenges
  3. Matt 17:19-21, Matt 12:29 Entering the strong man’s house.

1. **To whom do we pray**? We must know the person we are approaching as we pray. Even the people who worship demons know who they are approaching Luke 11:2, 15:18, John 14:13-15, 16:23, Matt 6:9, One must have a relationship with another before approaching that person for a request. The father we are talking to does not physically stay on earth. He is not on earth so the operation is spiritual and not physical. Isaiah 66:1, Acts 7:48.
   1. Foundation of all prayers is faith: Heb 11:6, Matt 21:22, 17:19-21



**All Citizens Christian Church Calgary**

**Bible Study:** Tuesday, January 30th 2023. **Topic: THE MODEL PRAYER Part 2**

**TEXTS: Prov 18:10**

The name of the Lord is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe

**Numbers 21: 6-9**

5And the people spoke against God and against Moses: “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread.” 6So the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.

7Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord that He take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.

8Then the Lord said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live.” 9So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.

**Introduction:** The challenge the disciples had is that they did not know how to call upon the name of the Lord. That is the same challenge many people have today. It is easy for us to call our friends and our earthly parents because we can see them and we understand our relationship. Unfortunately, many cannot see God and therefore, they do not understand their relationship with Him.

**Rom 10:13-14**

For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

The wisdom and the power of the world is hidden in words and speeches but the guaranty of our victory in life’s warfare (spiritual and physical) is hidden in prayers. This is the generation when science and visual perception dominates life’s events. For this reason, the supernatural is subdued and all results are authenticated by statistics. This is the reason why prayer is thrown to the back burner and perhaps totally eliminated in our daily operations. The challenge some may have is how to approach prayers and even the confidence that God is listening to them. Some have challenges with posture while some do not even know how to start. This Bible Study will adopt the usual practical approach to studies. Prayer is an open slate for a believer. An opportunity to relate with God and ask for whatever.

1. **How do we prayer**: If there is any challenge a new believer has, it is how do I pray. This is especially so because there is a cultural and personal effect to prayers. They certainly are varieties of positions when it comes to prayers. One must adopt the one that makes him or her communicate better with God.

**Postures in Prayers**

* 1. Bowing: Psalm 5:7, Exodus 34:8
  2. Standing: Luke 18:1, Matt 6:5
  3. Kneeling: II Chron 6: 13, Dan 6:10 This is the most popular for many people. This is understandable because being on the knees portrays a pleading posture for a request
  4. Lying prostrate Neh. 8:6, Matt 26:39. Sometimes in total surrender one may find himself or herself adopting this posture.
  5. Lifting up hands: I Tim 2:8, Psalm 141:2
  6. Praying without audible words I Sam 1:13 (Note the lips were moving)
  7. Praying with audible voice. Psalm 141:1, 5:1
  8. Crying out: To speak, not to speak, or to cry- That is the question. Psalm 5: 1-3, Psalm 55:17.

**How do I begin my prayers?** Make prayers a communication between you and God. Relate with God like a known friend without being over familiar. Make it very natural. From the Model prayer, you may have noticed that you cannot pray effectively if you do not have a relationship with God.

Approach prayer with thanksgiving and reverence; Do not approach it with arrogance. **Luke 18: 9-14**

It is interesting when some people talk about prayer as if they control the answers to prayers. It is one thing to have faith and another to be arrogant. **Luke 11:2**. We cannot approach God with a sense of entitlement. Instead, we must be humble and be prepared to thank Him

* 1. Psalm 95:2, Psalm 118:1 -What do we thank God for? How do we thank God even when things are not going on well with us. Thanking God should not be controlled by our circumstances I Thess 5:18
  2. Matt 6:9: Hallowed be they name., Psalm 145:1-2 (Praise and worship)
  3. Be interested in the will of God on earth as we pray. Prayer should not be just about you but about God too. So, you pray for His will to persist on earth. Matt 22:37.

**TEXTS: Matt 6:9-13, 7:7-11**

Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name Acknowledgement, Praise and Worship

10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Desire

11 Give us this day our daily bread. Request

12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Request

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

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Acknowledgement

You will find that about 50% of the Lord’s prayer is request

1. **In the model prayer in Matthew where did petition begin?**
2. **What do we ask for when we pray**? (Supplication – deesis (Petition)) -To request

When you hear that some people prayed for 5 hours, do you sometimes wonder what they are praying for? **So, what do we ask for?**

* 1. We ask him to meet our needs. Luke 11:3. It is these needs that generates anxiety in the first place.
  2. Everything including for our friends, leaders and even our enemies, The wider your view, the bigger your needs and the longer your prayer.
  3. How do we approach God in prayers

Approach God with openness, boldness, confidence and knowledge: Openness because God sees your heart so it will not pay you to hide anything from Him and think that He will not know. That is why vs 12 of Matthew 11 is very essential. Do not think that God does not care about our sins or that Mercy will overcome justice when you have not asked for it.

* 1. **WHY DO WE NEED KNOWLEDGE TO APPROACH GOD?** For instance, the Bible says Thy will be done on earth – However, we will need to know the will of God as we pray. For instance,
     1. we need to know that it is God’s will that we prosper? **III John 2**.
     2. We need to know that we are part of the conduit through which God brings His will to pass on earth.
     3. Also, we need to strive to fulfil God’s will on earth because it is in doing the will of God that we get our prayers answered- **John 15:7** (*But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted* NLT).
     4. We will not be tossed to and fro. Eph 4:14
     5. To be approved by God. II Tim 2:15

1. **WHY DO WE NEED TO PRAY SINCE GOD KNOWS OUR NEEDS: Matthew 6:7-8, Psalm 115:3, 139: 1-4**

**TEXT: Luke 18: 1-8, Gen 1:26-30**

God have surely given us everything that pertains to life but we do not live in this world alone. If we lived in this world alone, we may not have needed to pray. Gen 3.

Prayer is not a means to change God’s mind or force Him to do what we want.

If we want God to help us to fulfil His will on earth,

* 1. God wants us to pray and He wants us to pray continuously. Luke 18:1. Dan 10:10-14
  2. Prayer helps us to create a connection with God. **Matt 11:28, Isaiah 40:31** Prayer is a process through which we learn to trust God. He listens to us patiently. He takes our requests seriously. Then He considers everything in the context of the bigger picture only He can see.
  3. Prayer helps us to fulfil His will on earth. The devil will do everything within his power to hinder us or accuse God if He intrudes. Gen 1:26-28.
  4. Prayer helps us to overcome the challenges of life. Psalm 50:15. God knows that you are going to be in trouble but He does not have to deliver you from it if we do not ask Him. God knows that you have a need but he does not have to give it to you. Phil 4:6-7. Ezekiel 22:30, Who caused what happened in verse 29? And what was the result of prayerlessness to that land? 31
  5. Prayer helps us to lean on God.

1. **HOW CAN WE APPROACH GOD WITH CONFIDENCE AND ONE ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT OF PRAYER?** Heb 4:16. One thing that helps a person to be bold and confident is when one knows his or her rights. As much as we must approach God with humility, we must understand our relationship with Him and we must know who He is in truth. I Peter 2:9, Isaiah 53:4-5 (By His stripes we are healed).
   1. Watch: Closely associated with prayer is watchfulness and patience. Eph 6:18, Matt 26:41,

**KINDS OF PRAYERS Eph 6:18-20**

(List other types of prayers you know)- We will not be able to list all the types of prayers existing within the limits of this Bible Study. However, we will discuss a few types of prayers.

* + 1. Agreement Prayer Corporate prayer: Matt 18:19, Acts 2:42
    2. Prayer of Faith James 5:15
    3. Thanksgiving: Psalm 100:4, 118:1
    4. Confession: Psalm 51:1-5
    5. Intercession: I Tim 2:1, Acts 12: 5-12, Rom 8:26
    6. Warfare: Matt 4:4, Eph 6:10-12, II Cor 10:4-6, I Peter 5:8-9, Luke 18:1, I Kings 18:41-44. This type of prayer takes remarkable principles. For instance, you cannot fight in sin.

1. Create a guiltless approach before God. I John 3:21-22. Ask for forgiveness.
   1. Why should we ask for forgiveness?
      1. It shows our penitence.
      2. We cannot ask to be forgiven if we are not ready to confess Psalm 32:3-5
      3. Confession brings the mercy of God. Psalm 51:1-3, Prov 28:13
      4. Sin impedes God. Isaiah 1:15, I John 1:8-9
   2. Why is forgiving our fellow humans very necessary.
      1. It shows we are like our father.
      2. It brings you peace.
      3. It is a requirement in relationship. Mark 11:25-26, Luke 17:3, Eph 4:32.
2. What is the evil of falling into temptation:
   1. Sin separates us from God. I Cor 10:13.
   2. Does God lead us into temptation?
      1. James 1:13-15, Job 1:8 Job 1:8 tells us that we are all open to texts which may also be considered as temptation.