



PRAYER AND CHRIST'S POWER FROM GOD

Luke 11:1-5

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The Content of Prayer

“Lord, teach us to pray...”

Jesus' example of prayer

Why did they ask Jesus to teach them to pray? What is it that they saw or heard that wanted to learn? We have a lot to learn today about prayer.

The way Luke 11:1 is phrased, one wonders whether the disciples contemplated interrupting Jesus' prayer time but in the end waited it out.

Jesus' teaching of prayer

What jolts me is the way Jesus simply and straightforwardly taught His disciples to pray. If someone asked us to teach them to pray, what would we say? Why?

✠ WORSHIP

“Father, hallowed be Thy name.”

What does hallowed mean?

Worship begins not with activities but belief. Faith precedes true worship. Songs and attendance without devotion to Him are meaningless. The belief and depth of our belief in His hallowedness will shape our worship.

What are some inferior thoughts of God that hinder our worship?

✠ FOCUS ON HIS WILL

“Thy kingdom come.”

“In ancient forms of prayer the coming of the deity is besought in the typical formula “Come” or “Come to me.”... In any case, he is described precisely in his divine manifestation. By invocation “Come to me,” the god is brought down in order to fulfill what are usually the very egotistic desires of man.” (TDNT, Vol. II, p. 666).

✠ PROVISIONS FOR PHYSICAL NEEDS

“Give us each day our daily bread.”

God is great but not too great and not so distant to ask Him to care for our personal needs. God delights in providing for our needs as we come recognizing our dependence upon Him.

We should note that every sin binds us. “We also forgive everyone who is indebted to us.” Spiritual bondage comes to those who sin. When we sin we submit ourselves to another's power. Without repentance, there is no freedom from those sins.

✠ FORGIVENESS

“And forgive us our sins, For we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us.”

This request for forgiveness is an admission of our wrong doing as well as our belief in His ability to heal us. Our request for forgiveness is a reminder that we are a recipient of grace and therefore demands that we likewise live according to the principles of grace.

✠ PROTECTION FROM TEMPTATION

“And lead us not into temptation.”

I wonder how many times we ask for physical protection compared to spiritual protection. Our lack of earnest prayer to keep from temptation shows two crucial things about ourselves:

- 1) Spiritual pride:
We think we can do without the Lord's protection.
- 2) Spiritual blindness:
We are unaware of the dangers lurking about us.