

JESUS TEACHING ON PRAYER

By Keith Greer

"And it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased that one of His disciples said to Him, Lord teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples." {Luke 11:1} Many times Jesus took His disciples aside and taught them. On this occasion, they asked Him to "**teach us to pray.**"

This account in Luke, and also in Matthew 6:9-13: "In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen." Some referred to this as a "model prayer." Some even continue to pray this prayer today. What we have here is not a "model", but the Lord's teaching on "**how to pray.**" Let us examine His instructions to the disciples.

"Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name ..."{Luke 11:2} The prayer should be addressed to the Father. What does the word "hallowed mean? "To make holy; signifies to set apart for God, to sanctify, to make a person or thing the opposite of common." God's name is to be held in reverence.

"Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven." {Luke 11:2} This is one reason why this prayer is obsolete today. The "kingdom" has already come. {Acts 2:37-47; Revelation 1:9} In all things, we must pray that "God's will be done. " Matthew 26:42

"Give us day by day our daily bread." {Luke 11:3} We must never forget all our needs are freely supplied by God! {James 1:17; Acts 17:25; Matthew 6:25-34} We are stewards of every blessing we receive from His hand and must be faithful in how we use these things, 1 Corinthians 4:2.

"And forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us." {Luke 11:4} A great bible truth is revealed in this statement. God will not forgive us, if we do not forgive others! "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." {Matthew 6:14,15} Does God forgive us every time we truly repent and seek His forgiveness? How can we, as His children, fail to do less when those who have sinned against us ask our forgiveness. Give sober thought to this truth!

"And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." {Matthew 6:13} God does not tempt men with evil. James 1:13. Yet, He has promised man a "way of escape" if he will avail himself to it. ".No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it." {1 Corinthians 10:13} Remember the words of James, "... Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you ..."
{James 4:7,8}

"For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen." {Matthew 6:13} We must acknowledge that Christ is the head of all things. Matthew 28:18; Ephesians 1:19-22; "Amen", simply means "so be it." Look carefully at the life of Jesus when He was among mankind. Often when facing the most difficult times, tough decisions , important choices He made (like choosing His apostles) He would go away to pray to His Father.

So now we have the instructions, given to the disciples concerning prayer. Remember, Jesus was "teaching" how to pray, not leaving us a "model prayer." Prayer must come from the heart. It is our communication line with God! Prayer is a wonderful spiritual blessing only for those who are in the family of God. Only Christians can truly address God in heaven as "Our Father." ***