

THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

(Parallel Passage – Luke 11:2-4)

INTRODUCTION:

Prayer is talking to God, listening to God, praising God, thanking God, and making our requests known unto Him. Prayer is seeking God's guidance and assistance as we face the mysterious problems of life. Praying is sharing and fellowshiping with God (Matt 6:9).

- “To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing” – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

I. The Prayer Habits of Jesus

- A. Jesus began His ministry in prayer** (Luke 3:21-22).
- B. Jesus ended His ministry in prayer** (Luke 23:46).
- C. Jesus prayed while alone** (Mark 1:35)
- D. Jesus prayed before He made a major decision** (Luke 6:12-13).
- E. Jesus prayed before performing miracles**
- F. Jesus prayed everywhere** (1 Tim 2:8)
- G. Jesus prayed for Himself, His disciples, and all Believers just before heading to Gethsemane** (John 17:1-26).
- H. Jesus prayed a Blessing on the bread before He ate with others after His resurrection** (Luke 24:30).
- I. Jesus Blessed the disciples before His Ascension** (Luke 24:50-51).
- J. Jesus prayed without ceasing** (1 Thess 5:17).

II. Jesus Encourages Us to Pray

- A. Jesus encouraged His disciples to pray** (Luke 11:1).
- B. Jesus taught His disciples the proper manner for effective prayer** (Matt 6:9).
- C. Jesus instructed His disciples and us to avoid erroneous motive concerning prayer** (Matt 6:5-8).

III. The Benefits of Prayer

- A. Prayer gives us a sense of the presence of God**
- B. Prayer gives us an understanding of God's loving nature**
“God is Love” (1 John 4:8)
- C. Prayer gives us strength to avoid temptation** (Matt 26:41).
- D. Prayer is the divine cleansing and forgiveness of sin** (1 John 1:9).
- E. Prayer helps us to become more like Jesus** (2 Pet 3:18).

CONCLUSION:

- A. The Good News About Prayer**
- B. Jesus on the Mainline**
- C. The ABC's of Salvation**

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“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).