

Scripture reading: Matt. 14:23; Luke 22:39-46; John 17:6-26

Confession: Luke 6:12: *And it came to pass in those days, that He went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.*

Prayer is communicating with God—talking to God and also listening to Him. Prayer is essential to life as water, for just as no man can live without water (both inwardly and outwardly), no man can live successfully without communion with God. But some think otherwise, and that prompts the question: How can the created live independently of the Creator? The answer is: He can't, for the simple reason that the manufacturer has the best knowledge of its products.

Jesus our Lord lived a life of prayer and taught His disciples to do likewise. His prayer life not only depicts a model for prayer, but also helps us develop determination in prayer. Luke 11:1 tells us, *And it came to pass, that, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, one of His disciples said unto Him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.* In response, Jesus taught them the enduring prayer which is commonly known as The Lord's Prayer, and which has been prayed by millions. The unnamed disciple who asked Jesus that important question was undoubtedly moved by the Spirit of God to do so, for both his question and Jesus' response have resonated throughout the ages.

Jesus proved that prayers can move mountains and defeat the enemy. For example, before He began His Ministry, Jesus self-isolated for forty days in the wilderness for prayer and fasting. Luke 4:1-2 says, *And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned*

from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, Being forty days tempted of the devil. But Jesus prevailed, proving that prayer is essential in the fight against evil. The following Scriptures give additional information about Jesus' prayer life:

- Jesus prayed in public and private places (John 11; He prayed at the grave of Lazarus);
- Jesus prayed with and for His disciples (John 17:9-24);
- Jesus prayed openly for others;
- Jesus commanded and encouraged prayer (Pray that you do not get into temptation; Matt. 26:41);
- Jesus taught and modeled prayer (Luke 11:2-4);
- Jesus sometimes went into a solitary place to pray (Mark 1:35);
- Jesus said that men should not get tired of praying (Luke 18:1).

Prayer is a vehicle that transports man to God's throne of grace for different reasons. For example,

- Prayer is a vehicle for worship;
- Prayer is a vehicle for praise;
- Prayer is a vehicle for adoration;
- Prayer is a vehicle for the confession of sins;
- Prayer is a vehicle for thanksgiving;
- Prayer is a vehicle for presenting our requests to God (Phil. 4:6-7);
- Prayer is a vehicle through which we receive power to confront and defeat Satan, because he cannot pray.

For Jesus, prayer was not just a mere exercise, but communion with His Father, the living God. Jesus poured His heart and soul into prayer, and in Gethsemane, prayer became a great emotional expression of His Spirit (Matt. 26:36-46), when He asked for the Father's will to be done (verses 39; 42). If Jesus,

the Son of God, placed such great emphasis on prayer and sometimes isolated Himself for such times, what about us? We need to emulate Jesus, the epitome of prayer.

Our lives depend on the quality of our prayer, for we need divine connection to prevail. Again, how can we, the created live independently of the Creator? Acts 17:28 emphatically states that *In Him we live, and move, and have our being; ... For we are also His offspring.* We need the divine connection which comes through prayer—for a prayerless person cannot worship successfully, praise successfully, intercede effectively or live life abundantly. Therefore, let us pray!

Prayer Points

1. Heavenly Father, I thank You for Your love and mercy over my life; accept my thanks, in the name of Jesus.
2. Father Lord, forgive me of the sin of prayerlessness, in the name of Jesus.
3. Blessed Holy Spirit, come upon my life and stir up the desire for prayer, in the name of Jesus.
4. I command, Every evil deposit of prayerlessness in my life, be flushed out by the blood of Jesus, in the name of Jesus.
5. Fire of revival, fall upon my life and revive my prayer altar, in the name of Jesus.
6. Jer. 29:12: *Then shall ye call upon Me, and ye shall go and pray unto Me, and I will hearken unto you.*
Heavenly Father, I call upon Your name; answer me speedily and let my life receive the touch of heaven today, in the name of Jesus.
7. By Your power, O Lord, I stand against every negative force hampering my prayer life, in the name of Jesus.

8. By the authority from above, I pull down every visible and invisible altar of prayerlessness in my life, in the name of Jesus.
9. My life, be ignited by fire from above and become addicted to praying without ceasing, in the name of Jesus.
10. Psalm 16:11: *Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in Thy presence is fulness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.*
Faithful Father, I thank You for filling my heart with the joy of Your presence; glory be to Your name, in the name of Jesus.

Meditation: Psalm 27:4: *One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple.*

My Father, all my days empower me to dwell in Your presence and make You my priority, in the name of Jesus.

Thank You, Father, for answering all my prayers, in the name of Jesus.

