

TEACH ME TO PRAY

AN ELEMENTARY PRAYER LESSON UNDER GRACE

"Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."

~ Luke 11:1

1. Prayer Ignorance

- a. People don't know how to pray. That is normal.
- b. (Also, people don't know how to talk to each other. New books on both never cease.)
- c. There is praying wrong: vain repetition, hypocritical performance – Matt 6:5-8
- d. The disciples requested Jesus, "teach us to pray" - Luke 11:1
- e. Good news/bad news: the Bible says we know not what to pray for - Rom 8:26
- f. We don't know because it concerns the spiritual, the mind of God, divine intervention.
- g. Remaining in ignorance can result in spiritual frustration and confusion.

2. We Must Pray

- a. Prayers to God come from faith, fear, desire, and help (even in ignorance)
- b. Prayers stop when they think they don't need God, or 'it doesn't work'. Job 31:35
- c. There is no commandment to pray in the law of Moses (but they prayed)
- d. Paul's writings filled with instructions to pray as God's will for us:
 - i. First, prayers be made – 1 Tim 2:1
 - ii. Pray without ceasing – 1 Thess 5:17-18
 - iii. "In every thing by prayer...let your requests be made known" – Phi 4:6
 - iv. Continue in prayer; and watch... – Col 4:2-3
 - v. Paul prays for them to increase in understanding at the same time - Col 1:9-10

3. Prayer Must Be Taught

- a. Jesus prayed far more than he taught his disciples - John 17:1-26, Luke 6:12, 11:1-4
- b. Jesus taught prayer for Israel going into their earthly kingdom (not us) Luke 11:10-11
 - i. We must learn who God is – "Our Father..."
 - ii. We must learn God's will – "Thy will be done..."
 - iii. We must learn what God provides - "give us this day..."
 - iv. We must learn what God requires of us – "forgive us our sins, for we also..."
 - v. We must learn how God leads us - "lead us not into temptation"
- c. Dispensational study recognizes changes in God's instructions and man's responsibility
- d. Prayer is our responsibility: prayers change with progressive revelation.
- e. Proper prayer is informed, it must be taught. We can learn to pray as we ought.

4. Pray Under Grace

- a. As you learn under grace, you will pray wrong. Pray anyway. 2 Cor 12:8,10
- b. Christ died for sinners who did not and could not pray - Rom 5:8
- c. The Spirit seals you and intercedes for you when you don't know – Rom 8:26
- d. *"The inability to pray is one of your sins, and Jesus died for your sins"* – JH Brookes
- e. That people can boast in prayers means prayer does not save – Eph 2:8-9
- f. Ignorant selfish prayers do not change your standing with God (good or bad) – Col 2:10
- g. You are a child of God by faith in Christ Jesus (not prayer) – Gal 3:26
- h. If you struggle praying, a good prayer might be, "Lord, teach me to pray."