



the making of a

# Disciple



# DISCIPLES MUST HAVE A PRAYER LIFE

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Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol.  
1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 214–215.



# PRAYER MUST BE A PRIORITY FOR A DISCIPLE!

## LUKE 11:1 (NKJV)

Now 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.”



# JOHN THE BAPTIST PRAYED

- We usually think of John the Baptist as a prophet and martyr, and yet our Lord's disciples remembered him as a man of prayer.
- John was a “miracle baby,” filled with the Holy Spirit before he was born, and yet he had to pray.
- He was privileged to introduce the Messiah to Israel, yet he had to pray. Jesus said that John was the greatest of the prophets (Luke 7:28), yet John had to depend on prayer.



# THE DISCIPLES WANTED TO LEARN TO PRAY

- If prayer was that vital to a man who had these many advantages, how much more important it ought to be to us who do not have these advantages!
- John's disciples had to pray, and Jesus' disciples wanted to learn better how to pray.
- They did not ask the Master to teach them how to preach or do great signs; they asked Him to teach them to pray.



- We today sometimes think that we would be better Christians if only we had been with Jesus when He was on earth, but this is not likely.
- The disciples were with Him, and yet they failed many times! They could perform miracles, and yet they wanted to learn to pray.
- But the most powerful argument for the priority of prayer is the fact that our Lord was a Man of prayer.



# JESUS IS A PRAYING MAN

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Jesus prayed...

- at His baptism (Luke 3:21)
- before He chose the Twelve (Luke 6:12)
- when the crowds increased (Luke 5:16)
- before He asked the Twelve for their confession of faith (Luke 9:18), and
- at His Transfiguration (Luke 9:29).



# THE DISCIPLES KNEW JESUS PRAYED

- The disciples knew that He often prayed alone (Mark 1:35), and they wanted to learn from Him this secret of spiritual power and wisdom.
- If Jesus Christ, the perfect Son of God, had to depend on prayer during “the days of His flesh” (Hebrews 5:7), then how much more do you and I need to pray!
- Jesus wants the disciples to know effective prayer is the provision for every need and the solution for every problem.





# DISCIPLES MUST HAVE A PATTERN FOR PRAYER. (VV. 2 – 4)

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## LUKE 11:2 – 4 (NKJV)

<sup>2</sup> So He said to them, “When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.

<sup>3</sup> Give us day by day our daily bread.

<sup>4</sup> And forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.”



# THIS IS A “PRAYER PATTERN” GIVEN TO GUIDE US IN OUR OWN PRAYING.

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It teaches us that true prayer depends on a **spiritual relationship** with God that enables us to call Him “Father”; This can come only through faith in Jesus Christ.



## ROMANS 8:14 – 17 (NKJV)

<sup>14</sup> For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

<sup>15</sup> For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”

<sup>16</sup> The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

<sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.





Disciples must accept that  
true prayer also involves  
*responsibilities:*  
honoring God's kingdom  
and doing God's will.

## LUKE 11:2 (NKJV)

So He said to them, **“When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.**

- It has well been said that the purpose of prayer is not to get man’s will done in heaven, but to get God’s will done on earth.
- Prayer is not telling God what we want and then selfishly enjoying it.



- Prayer is asking God to use us to accomplish *what He wants* so that His name is glorified, His kingdom is extended and strengthened, and His will is done.
- I must test my requests by these overruling concerns if I expect God to hear and answer my prayers.
- Disciples need to know the Word of God, for there, we discover the will of God. We must never separate prayer and the Word.



## JOHN 15:7 (NKJV)

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If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.



Once we are  
secure in our  
relationship with  
God and His will,  
we can bring our  
*requests* to Him.

## LUKE 11:3 – 4 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> Give us day by day our daily bread.

<sup>4</sup> And forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.”





- We can ask God to provide our needs for today, forgive us for what we have done yesterday, and lead us in the future.
- All of our needs may be included in these three requests:
  - material and physical provision,
  - moral and spiritual perfection, and
  - divine protection and direction.
- **If we pray this way, we can be sure of praying in God's will.**





**DISCIPLES ARE  
PERSISTENT IN  
PRAYER.  
(VV. 5 – 8)**

## LUKE 11:5 – 8 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> And He said to them, “Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves;

<sup>6</sup> for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him’;

<sup>7</sup> and he will answer from within and say, ‘Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you’?

<sup>8</sup> I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs.



# GOD IS NOT LIKE THIS NEIGHBOR

- In this parable, Jesus did not say that God is like this grouchy neighbor. In fact, He said just the opposite. If a tired and selfish neighbor finally meets the needs of a bothersome friend, how much more will a loving Heavenly Father meet the needs of His own dear children!
- He is arguing from the lesser to the greater.



# GOD IS NOT LIKE THIS NEIGHBOR

- We have already seen that prayer is based on *son-ship* (“Our Father”), not on friendship, but Jesus used friendship to illustrate persistence in prayer.
- God the Father is not like this neighbor, for He never sleeps, never gets impatient or irritable, is always generous and delights in meeting the needs of His children.
- The friend at the door had to keep on knocking to get what he needed, but God is quick to respond to His children’s cries.



# PERSISTENCE BRINGS BLESSING

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## LUKE 18:1 (NKJV)

Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,

- The argument is clear: If persistence finally paid off as a man beat on the door of a reluctant friend, how much more would persistence bring blessing as we pray to a loving Heavenly Father!
- After all, we are the children *in the house with Him!*



# PERSISTENCE & HOSPITALITY

- Persistence is translated as “importunity,” which means “shamelessness” or “avoidance of shame.”
- It can refer to the man at the door who was not ashamed to wake up his friend, but it can also refer to the friend in the house.
- Hospitality to strangers is a fundamental law in the East. If a person refused to entertain a guest, he brought disgrace on the whole village and the neighbors would have nothing to do with him.



# WHY GOD ANSWERS PRAYER

- The man in the house knew this and did not want to embarrass himself, his family, or his village, so he got up and met the need.
- Why does our Father in heaven answer prayer? Not just to meet the needs of His children, but to meet them in such a way that it brings glory to His name.
- “Hallowed be Thy name.” *When God’s people pray, God’s reputation is at stake.*





# DISCIPLES MUST HAVE A PRAYER LIFE.

- The way God takes care of His children is a witness to the world that He can be trusted.
- Phillips Brooks said that prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance; it is laying hold of His highest willingness.
- Persistence in prayer is not an attempt to change God's mind ("Thy will be done") but to get ourselves to the place where He can trust us with the answer.





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