

The Lord's Prayer Bible Study (with references to related Scriptures)

(Luke 11:1-4; Matthew 6:9-15)

Luke 11:1 One day after Jesus finished praying, one of the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. Scripture doesn't say if Jesus was praying aloud or silently. If he had been praying aloud, maybe the disciple saw Jesus' humility and wisdom and felt his own prayers were inadequate. Perhaps the disciple wanted to pray in a way that pleased God. Was Jesus saying pray these exact words? I think Jesus was mostly giving us an example to follow, with his attitudes and his focus; as the request was, 'teach us how to pray' not 'what to pray'. Jesus answered by giving the prayer in Luke 11:2-4 and Matthew 6:9-13.

Luke 11:2 Hallowed be your name, to me means: holy is your name, which includes God' reputation, everything he stands for...his goodness, his greatness, his omniscience, his omnipresence, his great love and grace, his compassion and understanding and wisdom; his justice; his faithfulness... I could go on and on...God deserves our praise. He deserves the greatest honor and glory! He is above all! It's right that we praise him first and foremost.

Luke 11:2b 'Your kingdom come'. This could mean 1) asking for God to send Jesus back to earth, to set up his kingdom soon (with the attitude of "We can't wait to see you with our own eyes face to face!" 2) Seeking God's righteousness and his ways now while we're still here; having the things of God in mind each day, not just focused on our own trials. Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness (Matthew 6:33). Focus on heavenly things. (Colossians 3:2)

Luke 11:3 Jesus said we are to ask God to give us the food we need for the day. We can depend on God to provide for our physical needs, as well as our emotional and spiritual needs. Many times when the Bible speaks of bread, it is speaking more of the spiritual bread, as when Jesus said he is the 'bread of life'. (John 6:22-58). In taking the Lord's Supper, we're remembering Jesus' substitutionary death for our sins, his sacrifice of his own body (which the bread stands for) and blood (which the grapejuice stands for). Our focus is to be more on spiritual things than physical things, not worrying but seeking first God's kingdom and his righteousness. Matthew 6:34. We are also to pray in faith, knowing that Jesus can multiply our little bit of bread: Matthew 14:13-21. Jesus gives us the bread of heaven. John 6:30-42. We are assured in 2 Corinthians 9:8 that God wants us to have everything we need so that we can 'abound in every good work'. God gives us a glimpse of some of his reasons for being so generous: 2 Corinthians 9:9-15. Here is a related verse about asking for neither poverty, nor riches: Proverbs 30:8-9.

Luke 11:4 Jesus is giving us the example to show us we cannot expect God to forgive us if we're withholding forgiveness, love, attention, kindness, etc., to someone we're holding a grudge against. Matthew 6:14-15. Some will not even truly understand their wrong, nor be able to right their wrong, as they don't know Jesus. But as believers, we understand that Jesus paid the price for our debt on the cross (Romans 3:21-26) and so we can extend that grace to others, and not count their sins against them, but let it go, and pray for them instead.

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Luke 11:4b A look at the interlinear text tells us that we're asking God to lead us that we may not enter into temptation. I think something gets lost in some of the translations. We already know that God does not tempt us. (James 1:13-15) Matthew 26:41 shows Jesus to the disciples to 'pray so they won't be tempted'. I think Jesus is telling us to ask God to lead us on the right path -- the path of righteousness, and strengthen us when we're tempted. What do we use in our fight against temptation? God gives us his armor to fight against evil and temptation. I also see prayer as a piece of armor, (Ephesians 6:18), though it is not given a physical piece of armor associated with it. Ephesians 6:10-18. Jesus gave us a perfect example of how to use the sword, or word of God, when he was tempted in the wilderness. Luke 4:1-13. The other pieces of armor God gives us to fight sin are: Salvation, faith, truth, peace of the Gospel, and righteousness, mentioned above.

Luke 11:4 We are to ask God for strength so we can overcome the temptation. And God promises to always provide a way out so that we may not sin. 1 Corinthians 10:13. He is faithful! We can count on him! 1 Peter 4:12-13 tells us more about enduring fiery trials. And if we do sin, Jesus is our Great High Priest! (Hebrews 4:14-16) We can go to in humility, and ask his forgiveness, knowing we'll find his awesome grace!

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