

Introduction

It was four years and a week ago that our church plant first started meeting. The first half of a year, we were not officially a church, but a church planting team that had core meetings. We received notice from the Vineyard USA in October 2010 that we had been officially accepted. We had our first official church service on Sunday, January 2, 2011. Jack Webb spoke that day, and his message was entitled becoming a house of prayer.

Jack Webb had been a Methodist preacher in West Texas. He got baptized with the Holy Spirit, and the denomination did not take so kindly to the things that began happening in his church. Jack ended up leaving the Methodist denomination, and eventually got connected with Larry Lea in Dallas, Texas. Larry started a church called, "Church on the Rock." He also wrote a book called, "Could You Not Tarry One Hour." He asked Jack Webb to begin teaching workshops on prayer around the country. Jack did that for several years and then Larry asked Jack to plant a Church on the Rock church in Albuquerque. Lee and Betty began attending the Albuquerque Church on the Rock, and stayed there for many years. He laid a great foundation of prayer in their lives. We are very grateful for that foundation that was laid in their lives. He not only taught, but he role-modeled prayer in his church.

When I moved to Albuquerque, I met Jack through Dalton Jantzen, who was a tenant of our building. There was an immediate connection between us, and we set up a lunch date to get to know one another. We met occasionally from then on to pray together and share with one another. When I planted the East Mountain Vineyard Church, I asked him to preach that first service, and I asked him to preach on becoming a house of prayer. God says that His house shall be called a house of prayer; He wants the East Mountain Vineyard, and every church, to be a house of prayer.

This morning I will be giving a message on prayer. This is not the first or second message on prayer; this is the seventeenth message on prayer. In the last three and a half years, we have already done sixteen messages on prayer. It is important. I am convinced that it is one of many reasons that we do not see more things happen in our churches. James, the half-brother of Jesus, who pastored the church in Jerusalem, wrote that we have not because we ask not.

(James 4:2c) "You do not have because you do not ask."

The early church was committed to prayer. It was not just a few people who were committed to prayer. The whole church was devoted to prayer. When they were told to wait for the Holy Spirit, there were 120 in the upper room, and they were continually devoting themselves to prayer. The eleven apostles were there. The seventy others that He had sent out were probably there, and then about forty others.

(Acts 1:13-15) "When they had entered the city, they went up to the upper room where they were staying; that is, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. {14} These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers. {15} At this time Peter stood up in the midst of the brethren (a gathering of about one hundred and twenty persons was there together), and said,"

The apostles had learned the importance of prayer during their three years with Jesus. They were praying to be clothed with the Holy Spirit, because that is what Jesus told them to pray for. The Holy Spirit came down at Pentecost and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. There were three thousand souls saved that day. In Acts 2:41, notice what those three thousand began to do. They, the three thousand converts, were devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching, to fellowship, to breaking of bread and to prayer. The early church was devoted to prayer. It was not just a few people on a Wednesday night; the whole church devoted themselves to prayer. We want the signs and wonders that they had. We want the evangelism. We want the unity. But, are we willing to be devoted to the things that fuel these things? Are we willing to be a church that prays?

(Acts 2:41-42) "So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. {42} They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

The early church had an hour-long corporate prayer meetings every day at 3:00. In fact it was called the hour of prayer. We have a corporate prayer meeting for half an hour one Sunday a month. That is not much compared to what the early church did.

(Acts 3:1) "Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the ninth hour, the hour of prayer."

Our passage today is Luke 11:1-13. A couple of years ago, we spent seven weeks on this same passage. For many of you, this will just be a simple review. Our passage today begins with Jesus' disciples asking Him to teach them to pray.

In 1996, I was hitting balls on the range at the U.S. Open, which was being played at Oakland Hills in Detroit, Michigan. I had a good tournament that week, and had one of the most fun rounds of my life. I had eight birdies the second round. It was one of the lowest rounds in the Open. But, while I was hitting balls on the range, I kept hearing rocket shots. I went over and watched this person hitting balls. It was Tiger Woods, and his shots had a different sound coming off the club face than any of the rest of us who were on the PGA Tour. I was wowed. I wanted to see and learn from him. I believe that this is how the disciples felt. They had watched Jesus praying, and they had seen the results of His prayers, and they were wowed. Therefore, they asked Jesus to teach them how to pray.

Karen and I have ten children. When we were traveling around with our children, Karen would get asked all the time, "How do you do it?" That is why Karen developed a tract called, "People ask me, "How I do it?" Mothers who had one or two children were wowed because they couldn't fathom how anyone could handle that many children. They wanted to learn from Karen how to handle children. That is how the disciples felt; they saw something about the way Jesus prayed, and they wanted to learn from the Master.

Our passage today has three parts. The first part is the outline of prayer. Many people call this the Model Prayer or the Lord's Prayer. The second part is the Attitude of Prayer. Jesus taught on being persistent in prayer. The final section is about asking for the Holy Spirit. Jesus knew if we were going to pray effectively, we needed to be led in prayer by the Holy Spirit and to pray in the Holy Spirit. Let's read our passage together.

Lord, Teach Us To Pray

1. The Outline of Prayer (Luke 11:1-4)
2. The Attitude of Persistent Prayer (Luke 11:5-10)
3. Prayer for the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:11-13)

(Luke 11:1-4) "And it came about that while He was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples." {2} And He said to them, "When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. {3} 'Give us each day our daily bread. {4} 'And forgive us our sins, For we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.'"

(Luke 11:5-10) "And He said to them, "Suppose one of you shall have a friend, and shall go to him at midnight, and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves; {6} for a friend of mine has come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; {7} and from inside he shall answer and say, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been shut and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' {8} "I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will get up and give him as much as he needs. {9} "And I say to you, ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. {10} "For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it shall be opened.

(Luke 11:11-13) "Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? {12} "Or if he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? {13} "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"

1. The Outline of Prayer (Luke 11:1-4)

Jesus begins His teaching on prayer by giving them an outline of prayer. In the church, it is known as the Lord's prayer, and it is memorized and recited in churches around the world. There is nothing wrong with reciting the Lord's Prayer. The Word of God is powerful, and praying the Word of God is very powerful. It is okay, and it is good to pray the Lord's prayer. But I believe it is much more than a prayer to be recited. I believe it is an outline of the areas we should pray about.

There are other outlines that are used. Some people use the acronym, CAST, which stands for Confession, Adoration, Supplication, and Thanksgiving. Another one is ACTS, which stands for Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication. **An outline is very useful plan or roadmap that tells us where we are going and what we are doing. It helps direct the flow of prayers.** It helps from getting stuck. A plan gives various checkpoints, and for those of us who are task driven, we can see that we are making progress.

This is particularly true with corporate prayer. It is helpful for a leader to keep people from jumping and bouncing all over the place. That frustrates people. They are just getting ready to pray something about what is being prayed about, and all at once prayers are being offered about something else, and they feel that what they were about to pray no longer fits or flows. A leader with a plan can direct the flow and keep people focused on an area until the group or congregation is done praying for that area. The leader needs a plan, and the people can follow along more easily when there is a plan.

There should be an order in our prayer plan. While CAST is an outline, I do not prefer the order. It has thanksgiving last. We are exhorted to always give thanks. We are to give thanks in everything. There is nothing wrong with giving thanks at the end. But, personally, I believe that thanksgiving belongs at the front. I believe that we enter into His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. I believe that is a God-given order. I would rather see an outline like TAPS, which stands for Thanksgiving, Adoration, Petitions and Supplications. I believe that TAPS has the structure that is needed, and has a better order. In this section of the passage Jesus gives us an outline for prayer, and it has a proper order. It begins with addressing our Father and hallowing His name, which is adoration, and then moves into the other areas. The outline that Jesus gives is what I use personally, and it has been what Larry has been using in our corporate prayers. Let's take a look at the outline that Jesus gave all of us to use.

A. Hallowing His Name

Jesus begins with, "Father, hallowed by Thy name." As we come to God in prayer, we should address our prayers to the Father. When we have received Christ into our lives, we are adopted and become the children of God. We have the privilege of addressing our prayers to the Father.

(Luke 11:2) "And He said to them, "When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be Thy name...'"

In Romans 8:14-17, Paul says that those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. **We have received a spirit of adoption by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"** Abba is an affectionate way of saying Daddy. When we receive Christ, we are adopted and now have a Father/Child relationship. He is now our Daddy. The Spirit bears witness that we are children and heirs. What is significant to us as we go to our Father in prayer is our relationship with Him, and the privileges that we have in that relationship.

(Rom 8:14-17) "For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. {15} For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" {16} The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, {17} and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

I spoke with a young man at work recently about marriage. He and his fiancée are getting married in September. I spoke with him about the responsibility of providing for his wife and family. I told him that he needs to develop some career skills, so that he can earn enough to provide. He needs a good job that will provide him with health care benefits. My children don't worry about food, clothing, shelter, health insurance, protection, etc.; their father provides all those things for them.

As we begin to pray, it is good to address our Father, who provides all those things for us. He provides food, shelter, clothing, and protection. Whatever our need is, our Father has the ability to provide and take care of us. It is pretty special to be able to address the God and Creator of the Universe as our Father. It is pretty special to be able to ask our Father, who owns all things, to provide our needs. It is pretty special to ask our Father, who has all power and authority, for protection. There is not a single thing that we can pray about that God, our Father, cannot easily take care of.

Jesus said that after addressing our Father, we begin with hallowing His name. We should come reverently. We should come before Him with thanksgiving and praise. We enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. Throughout the Old and New Testament, we are exhorted to give thanks and praise.

(Luke 11:2) "And He said to them, "When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be Thy name..."

(Psa 100:4) "Enter His gates with thanksgiving And His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name."

The author of Hebrews tells us that we should continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. My heart is that we learn to be a thankful church. We should learn to give thanks to one another, and we should continually give thanks to the Father.

(Heb 13:15) "Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name."

It is not enough to give thanks, we are to continually offer up sacrifices of praise. We are to hallow the name of God. Our Father has many names and attributes that we can praise Him for. Years ago, I put together a prayer manual. The section on hallowing His name was a result of many years of recording different names and characteristics of God that I saw in the Scriptures. The list is so exhaustive that I cannot possibly go through those every day in my prayer time. I usually pick out a few different names and characteristics and praise Him for those. I try to praise Him thematically; it is easier to pray together that way.

For example, we could focus on Jesus, our Shepherd. Lord, we thank You for being our Shepherd. You are Jehovah Rohi, the Lord God our Shepherd. You are the Good Shepherd that laid down Your life for us. You are the Good Shepherd that does not flee like a hireling. You stay and protect me. You are always watching over me. You are the Shepherd who speaks to me so that I know Your voice. You lead me beside still waters....That is just a short sample of a combination of thanking and praising Him for being our Shepherd.

Karen and I can easily spend 15-30 minutes just thanking and praising the Lord. I consider this time every bit as important as any petitions that we might offer up. He already knows our needs before we ask Him. Honoring the Lord with our thanksgivings and praises is time well spent. Our vision is to be a people who love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength. We can show that love to the Father by continually offering thanksgivings and praises to Him.

B. Thy Kingdom Come

The second part of the outline is "Thy kingdom come." We are to be kingdom-minded people. John Wimber said, "**the kingdom of God is the rule of God in this present age.**" Jesus came back to take back the kingdom. When He came He said, the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. He had come to bring the rule and reign of God back on earth.

(Luke 11:2) "And He said to them, "When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come."

(Mark 1:15) “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

Jesus went about proclaiming the kingdom of God is here. In Luke 4, we saw that He was sent for that purpose, to preach the kingdom of God. **Jesus went about proclaiming and demonstrating the kingdom of God.**

(Luke 4:43) “But He said to them, “I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose.”

Even though the kingdom of God is here, it is not fully here. Jesus came and took back the kingdom, but the kingdom of God is not here in fullness. The second coming of Christ will bring the fulfillment of the kingdom. In heaven, there will be no sickness or death, but here on earth, we still have sickness, and death. That is why we say the kingdom is now and not yet. We see people healed, but not everyone is healed. There is no condemnation or guilt on those who are not healed now. We continue to pray, and to bless people. Our heart, our practice, our theology, and our prayer is Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. We want to preach and demonstrate the kingdom of God now, just as Jesus did.

In Matthew’s account, we find that Jesus said, “Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” **We are to pray for God’s will to be done here on earth.**

It is the will of the Father for people to be made whole. It is the will of God for people to be saved. It is His will that none should perish. It is His will for peoples’ lives to be transformed and conformed to His image. It is His will for us to have a godly sorrow that leads to repentance. It is God’s will for us to submit to those in authority. It is His will for us to be in right relationship with one another. It is His will for broken marriages to be healed, and for people to be reconciled to one another. It is His will for relationships between children and parents to be restored.

We are to pray for the kingdom, the rule and reign of God, and His will to be done here on earth, just as it is in heaven. We should pray for His kingdom to be done in our lives, our families, our churches, our state, our country, and in the world. We have a very broad range of things to pray about in the kingdom.

(Matt 6:10) “Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.”

God’s Will For Everyone

1. God’s will is for us to be conformed to His image. (Rom 8:26-30)
2. God’s will is for us to have a godly sorrow that leads us to repentance. (2 Cor 7:9-11)
3. God’s will is for us to submit to those in authority. (1 Pet 2:13-15, 2 Cor 8:1-5, Eph 6:5-8)
4. God’s will is for us to be sanctified (made holy). (1 Thess 4:3-7)
5. God’s will is for us to be in right relationship with one another. (1 Thess 5:11-18)
6. God’s will is for us to rejoice always. (1 Thess 5:16)
7. God’s will is for us to pray without ceasing. (1 Thess 5:17)
8. God’s will is for us to give thanks in everything. (1 Thess 5:18)

C. Praying about our Provision

The third part of the outline is prayer for provision. Jesus said, “give us each day our daily bread.” Much focus is spent on our physical bread. If you are hungry and have physical needs, it is right to do this. Karen and I have faithfully prayed for God to provide the things that we needed as a family, and we have seen God faithfully answer those prayers and provide for us.

(Luke 11:3) “Give us each day our daily bread.”

I have also spent much time praying over His provision and blessing in my life. I pray blessing on the business I manage. His blessing brings His provision. I want to have money to pay my employees. I want money to bless my employees with good benefits and bonuses. I pray His blessings on the business. When God blesses us, it allows us to sow more into the kingdom of God. Psalms 67 says, **God blesses us so that His way may be known on the earth, and His salvation among the nations.** He blesses us that all the ends of the earth may fear Him. God blesses us so that His kingdom can come and increase here on earth. His blessing is not primarily for our pleasures and comfort, but for His kingdom to come.

(Psa 67:1-7) “God be gracious to us and bless us, And cause His face to shine upon us— Selah.
2 That Your way may be known on the earth, Your salvation among all nations... {7} God blesses us, That all the ends of the earth may fear Him.”

In Matthew 6:33, **God promises to supply all our needs.** He adds all these things to us when we seek first His kingdom. I believe our focus should be more on “thy kingdom come” than on “give us this day our daily bread.” But, it is good to ask the Father to supply our needs. He wants us to come to Him with our needs. He wants us to trust Him for our provision.

(Matt 6:33) “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

I do not limit the prayer for provision to just physical things. In Deuteronomy 8, we find that God humbled the nation of Israel so that they might learn that man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. **We need spiritual bread, not just physical bread.** We need to have spiritual revelation, understanding, and knowledge.

(Deut 8:3) “He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD.”

I pray for Karen every day. I pray over the things that she will be doing that day. Once a week Karen fasts, and last week I asked her what she was fasting about. I wanted to agree with her in prayer as she fasted. She said she wanted to hear from God. Karen understands that we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. She is wanting spiritual bread. May we all have a spiritual hunger like Karen. May we all desire to have ears to hear what the Father is saying. We need every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.

D. Praying about Sins

The fourth part of the outline is praying about sins. Jesus divides this into two areas. First, **we need to ask God to forgive us of our sins.** Second, **we must forgive those who have sinned against us.**

(Luke 11:4) “And forgive us our sins, For we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us...”

Sometimes we focus on the sins of others, and do not have the humility to recognize our own sins. John tells us that if we say that we have no sin, we lie and the truth is not in us. We all sin, and we need to confess our sins and ask the Father to forgive us. God promises to forgive us and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. God already knows our sins before we confess them. We are merely acknowledging our sins to Him and asking Him to do something that He has already promised to do. God has forgiven our sins, past, present and future. We are praying His will when we ask Him to forgive our sins.

(1 John 1:8-10) “If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. {9} If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. {10} If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.”

I think that we should have Paul’s attitude about our sins. In 1 Timothy 1:15, he says, “it is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.” Paul understood that he sinned, and he was not focused on the sins of others. He was concerned about his own sins, and he had humility and gratefulness. He had humility to acknowledge His sins, and He was grateful for the grace and forgiveness that God gave him.

(1 Tim 1:15) “It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.”

The second part of praying about forgiveness is to forgive those who sin against us. Church, we do not have a choice in this. God commands us to forgive those who sin against us. He expects us to forgive them. In Matthew’s account, we find that Jesus said if we forgive others, the Father will forgive us, but if we do not forgive others, then our Father will not forgive our transgressions. I want my sins forgiven. Therefore, it is not an option. I must forgive the sins of others.

(Matt 6:14-15) “For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. {15}” “But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.”

In Matthew 18, Jesus told a story about a slave who owed a lot of money to the king. The king had mercy on him and forgave the man. That man was owed money by another slave, but he would not forgive the other slave of his debt, even though he had been forgiven a much bigger debt. He had the slave thrown into prison. When the other slaves heard about it, they reported it to the king. The king brought the slave in and told him that he should have also had mercy on his fellow slave. Then, he handed the unforgiving slave over to the torturers until he repaid all that was owed. Jesus ends the

story by saying that the Father will do the same to us if we do not forgive our brother from our heart. This whole account started by Peter asking the Lord how many times he had to forgive his brother. It was not seven times, but seventy times seven. In other words, we must keep forgiving our brother over and over. There is no limit to how many times we forgive.

(Matt 18:32-35) “Then summoning him, his lord *said to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. {33} 'Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?' {34} "And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. {35} "My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.”

Church, this is not an option. We must forgive one another. There are many who are being tortured in their souls because they refuse to forgive others. They are tortured with anger, bitterness, and even sickness because of unforgiveness. Researchers have found strong ties between certain illnesses and unforgiveness.

E. Praying about Protection

The next part of the outline is about temptation and protection. In Matthew’s account, we find more than just a prayer to not lead us into temptation, but a prayer to deliver us from evil. God wants us to overcome and triumph in our battle against sin and evil. We should put on the armor given to us in Ephesians 6. We should also apply the blood of the Lamb, as given in Revelation 12:11. This is a prayer for protection for us and those under our care.

This prayer is something that should be done both proactively and reactively. By that I mean that we should be praying in advance about the things that we know we will be facing. It is part of this outline of prayer, and it is there for a reason. But, during the day, situations may come up where we need to find help in time of temptation. We pray reactively at that point.

(Luke 11:4c) "...And lead us not into temptation.”

(Matt 6:13a) “And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil...”

In 1 Corinthians 10:13, Paul writes that “no temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.” That means that when we face a temptation, it has not taken God by surprise. He has not allowed us to be put in a situation that we cannot overcome. So, know this first, that **whatever temptation we face, we can overcome it.** That is a promise from God. Second, know that **God is faithful and will provide a way of escape.**

(1 Cor 10:13) “No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.”

Hebrews 4:15-16 says that Jesus is a high priest who can sympathize with our weaknesses. He has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore, we are to draw near to him, so that

we may receive mercy and grace to help in time of need. **Our prayer should be, “Lord, show me the way of escape that You are providing.** Open my eyes. Lead me not into temptation, but deliver me from evil.” This is a reactive prayer.

(Heb 4:15-16) “For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. {16} Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

2. The Attitude of Persistent Prayer (Luke 11:5-10)

Notice that Jesus did not stop after giving His disciples the outline of prayer. Having a good outline is important, but that in itself will not help you become effective in prayer. We must also have the right attitude in prayer. To teach us about the attitude of prayer, Jesus gave a parable about someone who has a friend who comes to visit him at midnight. A parable is “a short allegorical story designed to illustrate or teach a truth, religious principle, or moral lesson.” The moral lesson or truth that Jesus was wanting to convey through this parable was how we need to pray with persistence.

(Luke 11:5-8) “And He said to them, "Suppose one of you shall have a friend, and shall go to him at midnight, and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves; {6} for a friend of mine has come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; {7} and from inside he shall answer and say, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been shut and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' {8} "I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will get up and give him as much as he needs.”

He summarizes this main point at the very end by saying that we need to ask, and it will be given, seek and we shall find, and knock and it shall be opened. The verb tenses are important. We are to keep on asking. We are to keep on seeking. We are to keep on knocking. God will answer some of our prayers after asking one time, but most of the time we receive answers after praying persistently. **We must be persistent in our prayers and keep asking, seeking, and knocking.**

(Luke 11:9-10) “And I say to you, ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. {10} "For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it shall be opened.”

James says that “the effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.” That is what we want to be, effective in our prayers. We want to accomplish much with our prayers. James gives the example of Elijah. First, he tells us that he is no superstar. He was a man with a nature like ours. We sometimes think that Elijah, Moses, Paul, and others were spiritual giants that had special divine connections, and were different than us. No, James tells us that they put their pants on the same way we do. They had a nature like ours. Praying effectively is something we can also do.

(James 5:16b-18) “The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. {17} Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. {18} Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit.”

Next, Elijah prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain. Then, he prayed again, and the sky poured rain. I want to look at one word that helps us understand how he prayed. In verse 16, it reads the effective prayer of a righteous man. The Greek word for effective that is used is *energeo*. We get our English word energy from it. Elijah prayed with much energy and effort. The root word of *energeo* is *ergon*, which means work. **Elijah worked at his prayers and prayed with energy.** It was not a casual one-offish prayer that was offered up. He prayed with energy and worked at it.

I want to go back to 1 Kings 18, where we have the actual account given to us. Elijah went up to the top of Carmel, and he crouched down on the earth and put his face between his knees. This is the position of a woman giving birth to a child. Elijah was not just praying with energy. He was not just working at his prayer. **Elijah was laboring in his prayer, like a woman laboring to bear a child.**

(1 Kings 18:42) “So Ahab went up to eat and drink. But Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he crouched down on the earth and put his face between his knees.”

Let’s continue on. Elijah is praying and he tells his servant, go up now, look toward the sea. His servant returned and said there was nothing. Many times when we pray the first time, we see nothing. That does not mean that we are to stop praying. That does not mean that God is not going to answer. It just means that nothing has happened yet. Elijah kept praying and kept sending his servant back. In fact, Elijah sent him back seven times. The Scripture says that about at the seventh time, his servant said that a cloud as small as a man’s hand was coming up from the sea. That was all that Elijah needed. He tells Ahab to prepare his chariot and go down, so that the heavy shower does not stop him. And, in a little while the sky grew back with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy shower.

(1 Kings 18:43-45) “He said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea." So he went up and looked and said, "There is nothing." And he said, "Go back" seven times. {44} It came about at the seventh time, that he said, "Behold, a cloud as small as a man's hand is coming up from the sea." And he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot and go down, so that the heavy shower does not stop you.'" {45} In a little while the sky grew black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy shower. And Ahab rode and went to Jezreel.”

Elijah was effective because he did not just pray one time and stop. Elijah was effective because he was like the man who had a neighbor come at midnight. He did not take no for an answer the first time. He kept asking. He kept seeking. He kept knocking until he got bread for his friend. Elijah kept laboring in prayer until he saw the answer on its way. The number seven signifies completion. It may not mean exactly seven. It means that we keep on praying until we see the answer.

3. Prayer for the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:11-13)

To be effective, we need structure in our prayers. We also need to have the right attitude; we must be persistent in our prayers. Third, **to pray effectively, we also need the Holy Spirit.** Jesus taught His disciples about asking for the Holy Spirit. He says, “suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? Or if he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he?” These are rhetorical questions, and the answer to them is no. There is not a parent in their right mind that would do such a thing.

Jesus concludes that our heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him. Jesus was

going to be asking His disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they were clothed with power. They were to be praying for the Father to give them the Holy Spirit. He did not want them (or us) being fearful about asking for the Holy Spirit.

(Luke 11:11-13) “Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? {12} "Or if he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? {13} "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?”

In Scripture, Satan is sometimes referred to as the serpent. Scorpions are in reference to demons. Jesus is telling the church that if they ask for the Holy Spirit, our Father is not going to give us something Satanic or demonic. God, who is perfect and righteous, will give a good gift to us. The gift of the Holy Spirit is a good gift, and the Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask.

There have been many that say that speaking in tongues is of the devil, and is demonic. Jesus knew that some would accuse His followers of this very thing, and He tells us that we should not be afraid to ask for the Holy Spirit. God will not give us something Satanic, demonic, or dangerous. He gives good gifts to His children. How many of you know that the gift of the Holy Spirit is a good thing? The Holy Spirit is a wonderful gift, and the gifts that the Holy Spirit gives us are also good.

You might ask, what does this have to do with the disciples’ request to teach them to pray. Jesus knew that for us to pray effectively, we needed the Holy Spirit. Let’s take a look at prayer and the Holy Spirit.

A. The Holy Spirit helps us pray.

In Romans 8, Paul writes that the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. There are just many times we really don’t know what to pray, or how to pray, but the Holy Spirit intercedes and prays for us. The Holy Spirit helps us in our weaknesses. Jesus knew that we needed the help of the Holy Spirit in our prayer lives.

(Rom 8:26-27) “In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; {27} and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”

The Holy Spirit searches the hearts and intercedes according to the will of God. There are many times we do not know what the will of God is in our lives, and when we pray in the Holy Spirit, we can rest assured that we are praying according to the will of God. That is wonderful news for all of us. When you do not know what or how to pray about a situation, pray in the Holy Spirit. Notice that the Spirit Himself intercedes. Notice also that from there on, the Holy Spirit is referred to as He. The Holy Spirit is not an it, but a he. The Holy Spirit is a person. **The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead.** The Holy Spirit knows things; he has a mind. The Holy Spirit searches hearts. The Holy Spirit knows the will of God, because the Holy Spirit is God.

The Holy Spirit speaks to us. In Acts 13:2, the Holy Spirit told the leadership team at Antioch to

set apart Barnabas and Paul for the work which He had called them. In verse four, it says that they were sent out by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit or God sent out Barnabas and Paul.

(Acts 13:2-4) “While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” {3} Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. {4} So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia and from there they sailed to Cyprus.”

The Holy Spirit is also called the Helper in John 14:26. Jesus said that the Father would send the Holy Spirit in Jesus’ name, and that the Holy Spirit would teach us things, and bring to remembrance all that Jesus had taught them. We need both the teaching and the reminders of the Holy Spirit.

(John 14:26) “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”

There are two places that the Holy Spirit is called God. First, in 2 Corinthians, Paul tells us that the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. Second, in Acts 5, where we have the account of Ananias and Sapphira holding back some of the money from the land they sold. In verse three, Peter asks, “why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit...” Then, in verse four, he says, “you have not lied to men, but to God.” The Holy Spirit and God are used interchangeably.

(2 Cor 3:17) “Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”

(Acts 5:3-4) “But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land? {4} “While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.”

We need God’s help in our prayers. God gives His help to us through the Holy Spirit. Jesus has gone back to the Father, but the Father sent the Holy Spirit to us to help us. One of the ways that the Holy Spirit gives us great help is in our prayer life.

B. Praying in the Holy Spirit builds up our faith.

In Jude 1:20-21, we are encouraged to build ourselves up on our most holy faith. How are we to do that? We are to build ourselves up on our most holy faith by praying in the Holy Spirit. When we pray in the Holy Spirit, we are built up.

(Jude 1:20-21) “But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, {21} keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.”

This principle is also taught by Paul in 1 Corinthians 14. He said that one who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but one who prophesies edifies the church. When we pray in the Holy Spirit, we are edified or built up. That is why Paul said in verse five, “I wish you all spoke in tongues.” But he did not stop there; he desired even more that they would prophesy so that the whole body would be

edified. The point of this passage in 1 Corinthians is we should seek for the things that edify the whole church rather than the individual. That is why Paul writes that “greater is one who prophesies than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may receive edifying.”

(1 Cor 14:4-5) “One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but one who prophesies edifies the church. {5} Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues, but even more that you would prophesy; and greater is one who prophesies than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may receive edifying.”

A few verses later Paul says that “since you are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek to abound for the edification of the church.” Again, this is Paul’s main point of the passage. In our corporate services, we should seek for corporate edification rather than individual edification. Notice that in verses fourteen and fifteen that when we pray in a tongue, our spirit prays, but our mind is unfruitful. **Paul exhorts us to pray with the Spirit and to also pray with the mind**; and to sing with the spirit and to sing with the mind also.

(1 Cor 14:12-15) “So also you, since you are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek to abound for the edification of the church. {13} Therefore let one who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret. {14} For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. {15} What is the outcome then? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also.”

Jesus gave an outline so that we could pray with our minds. We can track what we are praying and stay focused. We can pray together corporately and agree with one another. But, God wants the church to pray with their minds and also with their spirit. So, Jesus told His disciples to ask for the Holy Spirit. If we are going to pray effectively, we needed to also pray in the Spirit.

C. The Holy Spirit reveals things to us.

Another reason we need the Holy Spirit in prayer is for revelation. In 1 Corinthians 2, Paul writes that God reveals things to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. The Spirit can do this because the Spirit is God. Paul continues that no one knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of a man. In the same way, no one knows the thoughts of God, except the Spirit of God. And God has given us His Spirit so that we may know the things freely given to us by God. How does He do that? He does it when we speak words taught us by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. In other words, when we pray in the Spirit, God reveals things to us. We need to spend time praying in the Spirit.

(1 Cor 2:10-13) “For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. {11} For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. {12} Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, {13} which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.

One day, as I was praying in my office, the Holy Spirit said that a young man named Nathan was

going to call me on the phone. I did not know this man, and had never heard of him before. But the Holy Spirit said that I was going to get a call from him, and he was going to ask me to begin courting my daughter. The Holy Spirit gave me some further instructions. The Holy Spirit very often will give revelation to us as we are praying. This helps us know how to pray, and what actions to take in specific situations that we face.

Many of the songs that the Lord has given me have come while I was praying in the Holy Spirit. One of my favorite songs is out of 2 Peter 1:5-10. I was walking around our neighborhood in Orlando, Florida, and while I was praying in the Holy Spirit, He gave me that song. God reveals things to us as we pray in the Holy Spirit.

We need to not fear, but ask the Father for His Holy Spirit. We need the Holy Spirit for wisdom, boldness, power, anointing, giftings, leading, etc. We are told in Ephesians 5:18 to "be filled (continuous sense in the Greek) with the Spirit." We need to regularly pray for a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit. We need to live by the Spirit. We need to set our minds on the Spirit. We need to be controlled by the Holy Spirit. We need to do exactly what Jesus said to do in this passage, pray for the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Conclusion

We have covered a lot of ground this morning. For many of us, we need a fresh commitment to just begin to pray, and to become devoted to prayer. For some of us, we need to be more systematic and organized in our prayers. We need to use an outline. The Lord's Prayer is a great outline to use. But, you can use your own outline. There should be an order, and it should begin with thanksgiving and praise.

For some of you, God may be encouraging you to be persistent in your prayers. Many times we have to keep looking to see if the rain cloud is on the way. We may have to send our servant back a fifth, sixth, or seventh time. Karen and I are in that mode with two of our daughters. We keep asking, seeking, and knocking. We are looking for that small cloud to appear in the horizon, so we will know that heavy rain is on its way.

Some of you are wanting to experience more in the Holy Spirit. Perhaps you have never been baptized, clothed, or filled with the Holy Spirit. God wants all of us to be filled with the Holy Spirit. This is not a one-time experience. Ephesians 5:18 tells us that God wants us to be continually filled. There is an initial baptism or clothing with the Holy Spirit. If you have never been clothed with the Holy Spirit, let me encourage you to come forward. God wants to fill you this morning. The Holy Spirit wants to help you. The Holy Spirit wants to reveal things to you. The Holy Spirit wants to help you in your prayer life. The Holy Spirit wants to fill you this morning.

Perhaps you have never prayed in the Spirit. Paul said that he wished we all spoke in tongues. It is not a requirement of being a Christian, but it is certainly an effective gift that the Holy Spirit gives to us. We can ask for this gift without fearing that our heavenly Father will give us a serpent or a scorpion. He gives good gifts to His children, and this is a good gift. If you would like to receive this gift this morning, let us pray for you. If this is something you desire, come on up now. We will be glad to pray with you this morning.

If you have any other needs this morning, whether for finances, job, healing, wisdom or any other area, and would like someone to pray with you, please come forward.

Let's pray.

Introduction (James 4:2c, Acts 1:13-15, 2:41-42, 3:1, Luke 11:1-13)

1. The Outline of Prayer (Luke 11:1-4)

- An outline is very useful _____ or roadmap that tells us where we are going and what we are doing. It helps _____ the flow of prayers.
- There should be an _____ in our prayer plan.

A. Hallowing His Name (Luke 11:2, Ps 100:4, Heb 13:15)

- We have received a spirit of _____ by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!” (Rom 8:14-17)

B. Thy Kingdom Come (Luke 11:2, Mk 1:15)

- “The kingdom of God is the _____ of God in this present age.” (John Wimber)
- Jesus went about _____ and _____ the kingdom of God. (Luke 4:43)
- We are to pray for God’s _____ to be done here on earth. (Matt 6:10)

God’s Will For Everyone

1. God’s will is for us to be conformed to His image. (Rom 8:26-30)
2. God’s will is for us to have a godly sorrow that leads us to repentance. (2 Cor 7:9-11)
3. God’s will is for us to submit to those in authority. (1 Pet 2:13-15, 2 Cor 8:1-5, Eph 6:5-8)
4. God’s will is for us to be sanctified (made holy). (1 Thess 4:3-7)
5. God’s will is for us to be in right relationship with one another. (1 Thess 5:11-18)
6. God’s will is for us to rejoice always. (1 Thess 5:16)
7. God’s will is for us to pray without ceasing. (1 Thess 5:17)
8. God’s will is for us to give thanks in everything. (1 Thess 5:18)

C. Praying about our Provision (Luke 11:3)

- God _____ us so that His way may be known on the earth, and His salvation among the nations. (Psa 67:1-7)
- God promises to _____ all our needs. (Matt 6:33)
- We need _____ bread, not just _____ bread. (Deut 8:3)

D. Praying about Sins (Luke 11:4)

- We need to ask God to forgive _____ of our sins. (1 John 1:8-10, 1 Tim 1:15)
- We must forgive _____ who have sinned against us. (Matt 6:14-15, 18:32-35)

Introduction (James 4:2c, Acts 1:13-15, 2:41-42, 3:1, Luke 11:1-13)

1. The Outline of Prayer (Luke 11:1-4)

- An outline is very useful _____ or roadmap that tells us where we are going and what we are doing. It helps _____ the flow of prayers.
- There should be an _____ in our prayer plan.

A. Hallowing His Name (Luke 11:2, Ps 100:4, Heb 13:15)

- We have received a spirit of _____ by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!” (Rom 8:14-17)

B. Thy Kingdom Come (Luke 11:2, Mk 1:15)

- “The kingdom of God is the _____ of God in this present age.” (John Wimber)
- Jesus went about _____ and _____ the kingdom of God. (Luke 4:43)
- We are to pray for God’s _____ to be done here on earth. (Matt 6:10)

God’s Will For Everyone

1. God’s will is for us to be conformed to His image. (Rom 8:26-30)
2. God’s will is for us to have a godly sorrow that leads us to repentance. (2 Cor 7:9-11)
3. God’s will is for us to submit to those in authority. (1 Pet 2:13-15, 2 Cor 8:1-5, Eph 6:5-8)
4. God’s will is for us to be sanctified (made holy). (1 Thess 4:3-7)
5. God’s will is for us to be in right relationship with one another. (1 Thess 5:11-18)
6. God’s will is for us to rejoice always. (1 Thess 5:16)
7. God’s will is for us to pray without ceasing. (1 Thess 5:17)
8. God’s will is for us to give thanks in everything. (1 Thess 5:18)

C. Praying about our Provision (Luke 11:3)

- God _____ us so that His way may be known on the earth, and His salvation among the nations. (Psa 67:1-7)
- God promises to _____ all our needs. (Matt 6:33)
- We need _____ bread, not just _____ bread. (Deut 8:3)

D. Praying about Sins (Luke 11:4)

- We need to ask God to forgive _____ of our sins. (1 John 1:8-10, 1 Tim 1:15)

- We must forgive _____ who have sinned against us. (Matt 6:14-15, 18:32-35)

E. Praying about Protection (Luke 11:4c, Matt 6:13a)

- This prayer is something that should be done both _____ and _____.
- Whatever temptation we face, we can _____ it. (1 Cor 10:13)
- God is faithful and will provide a way of _____.
- Our prayer should be, “Lord, show me the way of _____ that You are providing. (Heb 4:15-16)

2. The Attitude of Persistent Prayer (Luke 11:5-10, James 5:16b-18)

- We must be persistent in our prayers and _____ asking, seeking, and knocking.
- Elijah _____ at his prayer, and prayed with _____.
- Elijah _____ in his prayer, like a woman _____ to bear a child. (1 Kings 18:42-45)

3. Prayer for the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:11-13)

- To pray effectively, we also need the _____.

A. The Holy Spirit helps us _____. (Rom 8:26-27)

- The Holy Spirit searches the hearts and _____ according to the will of God.
- The Holy Spirit is the third person of the _____. (2 Cor 3:17, Acts 5:3-4)
- The Holy Spirit _____ to us. (Acts 13:2-4)
- The Holy Spirit is also called the _____. (John 14:26)

B. Praying in the Holy Spirit builds up our _____. (Jude 1:20-21, 1 Cor 14:4-5)

- Paul exhorts us to pray with the _____ and to also pray with the _____. (1 Cor 14:12-15)

C. The Holy Spirit _____ things to us. (1 Cor 2:10-13)

E. Praying about Protection (Luke 11:4c, Matt 6:13a)

- This prayer is something that should be done both _____ and _____.
- Whatever temptation we face, we can _____ it. (1 Cor 10:13)
- God is faithful and will provide a way of _____.
- Our prayer should be, “Lord, show me the way of _____ that You are providing. (Heb 4:15-16)

2. The Attitude of Persistent Prayer (Luke 11:5-10, James 5:16b-18)

- We must be persistent in our prayers and _____ asking, seeking, and knocking.
- Elijah _____ at his prayer, and prayed with _____.
- Elijah _____ in his prayer, like a woman _____ to bear a child. (1 Kings 18:42-45)

3. Prayer for the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:11-13)

- To pray effectively, we also need the _____.

A. The Holy Spirit helps us _____. (Rom 8:26-27)

- The Holy Spirit searches the hearts and _____ according to the will of God.
- The Holy Spirit is the third person of the _____. (2 Cor 3:17, Acts 5:3-4)
- The Holy Spirit _____ to us. (Acts 13:2-4)
- The Holy Spirit is also called the _____. (John 14:26)

B. Praying in the Holy Spirit builds up our _____. (Jude 1:20-21, 1 Cor 14:4-5)

- Paul exhorts us to pray with the _____ and to also pray with the _____. (1 Cor 14:12-15)

C. The Holy Spirit _____ things to us. (1 Cor 2:10-13)