

August 25 | Sunday

The Lord's Prayer

Read Matthew 6:5-14



26 | Mon – Pray... | Read Luke 11:1-4

What does it mean to pray? Simply, it is the action of talking to God about your life. It is a multi-faceted, ongoing conversation with the One who created you, who knows you better than anyone else does and who loves you deeply. It can be as simple or complex as needed to express yourself. Jesus taught his disciples to pray differently than other religious leaders of his day, to see YHWH, the Almighty God as their Father. It changed their relationship from fear to confidence. How do you view the One you pray to and what difference does it make?

27 | Tue – When? | Read 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Your relationship with God as a Father is unlike any other in several respects. One significant thing is that you can talk with Him anywhere at any time, in any circumstances, and about anything. He hears you when you speak or whisper or when you have no words to express what your heart is experiencing. Who else knows you so well, loves you unconditionally and understands so completely what you need?

28 | Wed – Why? | Read Titus 3:3-7

The Bible is full of examples of people who prayed. Hannah prayed for a son, Elijah prayed for rain, the enslaved Israelites prayed for relief, the early church prayed Peter out of jail and Paul prayed for boldness to preach the Gospel. It is most often a great need that drives us to our knees but it is the Lord's kindness that makes us love Him even more. Have you experienced His kindness at a time when you needed it the most but deserved it the least?

29 | Thu – How? | Read Matthew 6:5-8 / Luke 18:9-14

Some Jewish religious leaders had become proud in their prayers. That is a danger for anyone to be aware of. Jesus gave his followers a fresh perspective, restoring prayer to its purpose as a conversation with your Father in heaven. Have your prayer conversations become stale or repetitive or even formal? It is important to remember that He knows all your feelings and He can handle any frustration or anger you may struggle with. What a relief to know you can be real with Him and with yourself when you pray.

30 | Fri – Who or what? | Read 1 Samuel 12:23 / Ephesians 1:15-16 and 6:18-20

What or who do you regularly pray for? Many people are stuck in praying exclusively for their own needs, very rarely thinking of others. Praying for yourself is important but don't stop there. In a society where trashing political leaders is popular *and* acceptable, it is refreshing to know that some are praying for them. Interestingly, the prophet Samuel elevated *not* praying for those in authority to the level of sin. Could it be that these leaders come to your attention for just that purpose?

31 | Sat – When you hit a wall... | Read Luke 11:5-13 and 18:1-8 / Romans 8:26-27

Author Jurgen Matthesius coined the acronym P.U.S.H. - pray until something happens. Jesus understood the difficulty of continuing to pray when answers are delayed. His words should encourage you to be persistent. Repeated requests do not show that you lack faith nor does it upset the Lord; He knows your heart so pray on. When the answers don't fit your expectations, do you believe in God's goodness enough to trust that things will be okay in the