

# Luke 11:1-4

Per FBC Evansville, domenica, 20 ottobre 2019,  
di Marco deFelice,

Do you ever prayer? Of course you do. Every true child of God prays, some more, some less. But we all pray. In reality, even people who are NOT truly saved pray in times of need. We pray, because in our hearts, we know that we need God's help and grace.

But in reality, many times our prayers are NOT as they should be. As in every area of life, we need to learn how to pray according to God's will.

The disciples of Jesus knew this, and so, they asked Jesus to teach them to pray as they should. As a church, you've been studying Luke, and today, we want to continue on in Luke. Please turn to Luke 11:1-4, in which Jesus teaches his disciples, and through the Bible teaches us, how to pray. This is what we call the Lord's Prayer, and we also find it in Matthew 6.

Follow as I read Luke 11:1-4. I'm going to read from the New King James, which has some words which some translations omit.

*“1 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.” 2 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. 3 Give us day by day our daily bread. 4 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.””*  
(Lu 11:1-4 NKJV)

The purpose of this prayer is not to simply repeat it word for word. Rather, it teaches us what we should include in our prayers. In fact, of the many prayers in the New Testament, we never see this prayer, but we see many prayers which have the same truths as this prayer.

So, follow along as we examine

this prayer, and let's learn how we can pray more and more according to the will of God.

In verse 1, we see that the disciples recognized that they needed to learn better how to pray. Follow as I read verse 1 again.

*"1 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." (Luke 11:1)*

As the disciples saw Jesus praying, they asked him to teach them to pray. It is important for us to realize that WE need to learn to pray more according to the will of God. And, as parents, we need to teach our children to pray.

We have Jesus Himself as our teacher in this passage. Let's listen carefully. May we learn from Him.

There's one other thing which strikes me. A disciple asks Jesus to teach them to pray, and he immediately teaches them to pray. God loves it when we ask him for things which are according to his will.

OK, so, how should we pray? What

are the most important things to include in our prayers? Let's listen to the first part of what Jesus teaches us about prayer. Follow as I read verse 2

*2 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. (Luke 11:2 NKJV)*

Do you recognize that this first part of this prayer is totally focused on God? Oh that our prayers would have GOD at their center.

Let's look carefully at this first part of this prayer.

Jesus teaches us to begin our prayers remembering TO WHOM we are praying. So often, we begin our prayers with our requests. It should not be this way. If we do not focus on the God to whom we are praying, we will struggle to have faith.

Let me ask you: how often do you pray, but you struggle to have faith? It is very likely that the reason is that you are not focusing on who God is.

Jesus teaches us to begin by praying to God as our FATHER.

Let me ask you a question: do you ever pray, but even after you pray your heart is agitated and you don't have peace? Many times, God seems far away, we have doubts that God is really in control of our circumstances and really cares. We need to remember that if we are saved, if we are "in Christ", then God is our FATHER, and we are his dearly loved children.

Through Jesus Christ, God, the sovereign and mighty Creator and Lord, is our Father, and we are his children.

As children, we are precious to God. God loves us, God our Father cares for us. God our Father is near to us. We need to remember this in our prayers.

## **Father in Heaven**

Continuing on in the passage, we have the words "our Father in heaven."

Some modern translations leave out the words "in heaven", but, they are present in the vast majority of the Greek texts. They are very important.

When we declare "**Our Father**

**who is in heaven**", we are recognizing and declaring the **glory** and the **sovereignty** of God. When we declare that God is in heaven, we are declaring that He is on this THRONE, reigning over all of the universe. It is so important that we remember this when we pray. We are not praying to a weak God, we are praying to the One who reigns over all, including over all of our circumstances.

Far too often, we are focused on the how big our problems are, rather than on how big and powerful God is.

When we declare that God is sovereign in the heavens, our faith is strengthened, and God is glorified. However big our problems are, they are nothing in comparison with the our God, our heavenly Father, who is sovereign over all.

We find many prayers in the Bible which start by declaring God's sovereignty. For example, in Acts 4, the Apostles Peter and John have been arrested, and the authorities order them to not preach Jesus Christ again. They return to the gathering of the believers, and share with them this news. Then, this group of believers, under severe threat by the authorities, join

together in prayer to their heavenly Father. Listen as I read Acts 4:23-26. Notice how they start by declaring the power and sovereign control of God. (add 23-28)

*“23 And being let go, they went to their own [companions] and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. 24 So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: “Lord, You [are] God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, 25 “who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: ‘Why did the nations rage, And the people plot vain things? 26 The kings of the earth took their stand, And the rulers were gathered together Against the LORD and against His Christ.’ “27 “For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together 28 “to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. 29 “Now, Lord,*

*look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, 30 “by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.””*  
(Acts 4:23-306 NKJV)

Their problems were great. But their God, OUR God, is infinitely greater. It is SO important that we remember the greatness and power of God when we pray. Our heavenly Father is in control of our situations. Let us declare this when we pray.

## **Ask that God be glorified**

Jesus has just taught us that it is very important to begin our prayers remembering that we are children of God, that He is our Father, and declaring his power and sovereign control.

At this point, Jesus begins listing requests to God. We pray because we are a needy people. How wonderful that we can freely bring our requests to God.

What should be our greatest requests?

What strikes me here is that the first request which Jesus teaches us to make, because it should be the request dearest to our hearts, is not for some earthly need of ours.

Rather, our first request, that which should most reflect our hearts, is that God be gloried. This should be our greatest passion.

Listen to how Jesus teaches us to pray as I read v.2 again.

*2 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.  
(Luke 11:2 NKJV)*

This is similar to what Jesus commanded in Matthew 6:33

*““But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” (Matt 6:33 NKJV)*

Let's consider these three requests:

The phrase: **“Hallowed be your**

**name**” is at request that God be glorified. If we see ourselves as “in Christ”, then we should desire the glory of God more than anything else in the world.

In reality, God’s glory is our greatest good.

Therefore, in our prayers, our greatest desire should be for God’s glory. Our hearts should long that God’s name be known and glorified, which is the sense of “hallowed”.

If this is not your passion, your desire, then you are not recognizing your true identity in Christ, that is, if you are truly a believer.

It is when we greatly desire God’s glory that we will have deep fellowship with God.

Then Jesus says: **“Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as [it is] in heaven.”**

Jesus is teaching us that our passion should be that God’s kingdom expand. Related to this is that **God’s** will be done in every situation, rather than our own.

The abundant Christian life will only come about when our greatest passion is for the kingdom of God, so that this becomes our deepest prayer request. So often our passion

is not God and is not his kingdom, but earthly things. And so, our prayers are not truly in line with the heart God.

Let me make an analogy. When God gives a couple the gift of children, they should greatly desire the true good of their children. In a sense, it should be their passion. If that is their heart and their passion, they will labor to raise their children well, and that desire will be very present in their prayers.

If the good of their children is NOT their passion, they will not labor for the good of their children, and it will not be at the center of their prayers.

But in that case, they are missing entirely what it means to be parents.

Similarly, when God saves us, and takes us from being enemies of God, to being dearly loved children, our passion should be for the glory of God and the expansion of his kingdom. We should labor for this, and this should be foremost in our prayers.

If this is not our passion, if this is not at the center of our prayers, we are missing what it means to be children of God.

If we are saved, our true **identity** is in Jesus Christ. Just as being a parent is not a job, it is part of who you are, so, but in a total sense, being in Christ is not a religion to practice, it is not a way to live, but it is our very identity. As the Apostle Paul wrote in Galatians 2:20.

*“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the [life] which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” (Gal 2:20 NKJV)*

and so, since our very life is in Christ, our greatest passion should be that Jesus Christ be known and glorified by others. And therefore, our greatest desire in our prayers should be that the kingdom of God come, and that his will be done.

Asking that God's will be done means desiring God's will more than our own will. Listen to Jesus as he prayed in the garden, right before being arrested and then going to the cross. Matthew 26:39.

*“He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You [will].”” (Matteo 26:39 NKJV)*

In one sense, Jesus deeply desired to **not** go to the cross. He knew what he would face, he fully understood that he would suffer the wrath of God for the sins of all those God would save. So, in that sense, the will of Jesus was to NOT go to the cross. And, he prayed that if that were possible, that he not have to go.

But, his greatest desire, his deepest passion, was that the will of the Father be done. So, even in the deep anguish of his soul, he prayed that not **his** will, but the **Father's** will be done. This is faith, this is trusting God.

And so, when we pray, through Jesus Christ we can make our requests known to God. In our deepest and darkest moments, we can make our requests known to God.

But, if we understand who we are in Christ, if we see that our good is totally bound up in God's glory,

then we too will pray as Jesus did, asking that God's kingdom come, and that his will be done, even when it is different than ours.

Just a comment here: if we are praying that God's will be done, we must desire first and foremost that it be done in OUR lives. If we desire that God's kingdom come, we must first and foremost desire that God fully reign in OUR lives. So, as we pray this, we must pray that it be true first of all in us. We must pray that WE can be fully submitted to God.

And in fact, so many times in the Psalms we see prayers asking God to teach us his ways. May we have this desire, may this be part of our prayers. We desire to know and to walk in the ways of God in all areas of our lives.

## **our Daily Bread**

It is clear from how Jesus presents this prayer, and also from the prayers we see throughout the Bible, that our greatest desire should be for the glory of God and the growth of his kingdom.

But, as our loving Father, God also teaches us to bring **all of our needs** to Him, including our most basic

practical needs. In fact, in verse 4, we read:

*3 Give us day by day our daily bread. (Luke 11:3 NKJV)*

While we are here on this earth, in our physical bodies, we need food, we need physical protection and healing and warmth. We cannot live without these things.

When we have physical or material needs, our natural tendency is to worry and to lack peace.

??? How many times have you ever worried about a health need, or a financial need, or some other practical need?

How we need to remember that God is our FATHER, who dearly loves us. We are his children, precious to Him. Remember that Jesus taught us to BEGIN our prayers remembering that God is our Father, and therefore that we are his children. He is our **heavenly** Father, sovereign over all things.

As our heavenly Father, as our Creator, God knows every need of ours. He knows exactly that is going on in our lives, and what we truly need.

As our heavenly FATHER, God

loves us, and God CARES for us. He will never leave us for forsake us.

And so, through Jesus Christ, we can take every need to God in prayer.

And so, continuing this prayer, Jesus says:

*give us this day our daily bread.*

This could also be translated: Give us our bread according to the day, or, according to the need of the moment.

God wants us to present all of our needs to Him.

Notice that Jesus says “BREAD”. In the Bible, bread represents that which is **necessary** for life. It is NOT that which is simply for our preferences, or for pleasure. James 4:2.3 shows us that we should not pray for that which is to satisfy our pleasures. Listen as I read.

*“2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend [it] on your pleasures.”  
(James 4:2-3 NKJV)*

God it not our heavenly servant, there to give us whatever we want. Christ teaches us to ask for that which are truly needs. As our heavenly Father, God loves to provide for our needs. Take all of your needs to God in prayer.

God, in his sovereign wisdom and kindness, often chooses to give us **more than we need**. He created countless good things for us to enjoy. Simple bread would suffice us, but God created countless foods and flavors. A black and white world would have been enough, but God created great beauty for us to enjoy. God gives many good gifts beyond our needs.

But it is not for us to pray for that which is for our pleasures. Let us pray for every need, and then, let us trust God to lavish his love upon us

as He knows best.

Let me mention something here about God providing for our needs. We so often are anxious and worried about our needs. It is so important that we remember the **heart** of God, and how precious we are to Him. He will care for us. Let me read the words of Jesus regarding this in Matthew 10:29-31.

*“29 “Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will. 30 “But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 “Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.” (Matthew 10:29-31 NKJV)*

I pray that each one of us who is a child of God can understand the heart of God more, and know more of the love of God and his perfect care for us. We are precious to God. Let us bring every need to God, knowing that he loves us and that He cares for us.

Let me make one last comment here: Jesus teaches us to prayer:

*Give **US** this day **OUR** daily bread.*

Our prayers must not be focused only on ourselves. When God saves us, He makes us part of the **body** of Christ. It is so very important that we do not just focus on ourselves and our needs, but that we love one another, and pray for one another.

## **Forgive us our Sins**

Of course we have physical and material needs. But we have a need which is far, far more important. We need forgiveness. If we lacked food, or some other basic physical need, the worst which could happen is that we could die, physically.

But, if we are not forgiven, our fellowship with God is broken, which is infinitely worse than any physical or material problem, or even physical death.

Nothing, nothing is as terrible as having our fellowship with God broken.

In Isaia 59, we read that if we have sins which are not confessed, they create a barrier between us and God, and God will not listen to our prayers. Listen as I read Isaiah 59:1,2.

*“1 Behold, the LORD’S hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. 2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden [His] face from you, So that He will not hear.”*  
(Isaia 59:1-2 NKJV)

Until we confess our sins, they create a barrier between us and God. But, when we confess our sins, God forgives us, through Jesus Christ.

And so, in Luke 11:4, as Jesus teaches us to pray, he says:

*4 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.”* (Luke 11:4 NKJV)

When we pray, it is ESSENTIAL that we recognize and confess our sins. Every sin is a terrible offense against God. So we must confess our sins to God.

But Jesus does not just teach us to

confess our sins. He also teaches us that we must **forgive all those who have sinned against us.**

If we truly see our sins, and how terrible they are, and confess them to God, we will be quick to forgive others. We will see that **our** guilt before God is always far worse than anyone else’s guilt against us.

If you struggle to forgive others, the problem is almost certainly that you are not seeing how terrible YOUR sins are. When we see the greatness of OUR debt against God, we are able to forgive others for their debts against us.

In Matthew 6:14,15, immediately after Jesus teaches this prayer, Jesus adds the following warning:

*“14 “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 “But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”*  
(Matthew 6:14-15 NKJV)

We MUST forgive others, for that is a part of truly seeing our sins and confessing them to God.

## Do not lead us into temptation

Look at the second part of Luke 11:4. Not only do we confess our sins, and forgive those who sin against us, but we ask God for help to not continue sinning. Follow as I read:

*4 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.”” (Luke 11:4  
NKJV)*

We are so very given to sin. Our lust and our flesh so quickly lead us into sin. God send us our trials, but God never tempts us to sin, as we read in James 1:13.

*“Let no one say when he  
is tempted, “I am  
tempted by God”; for  
God cannot be tempted  
by evil, nor does He  
Himself tempt anyone.”  
(Jas 1:13 NKJV)*

God never tempts us to sin. But we are tempted, from the sin which is still within us, and by the world around us. We must be on guard,

we must be spiritually alert, and watch and pray, praying for spiritual protection. Listen to what Jesus told his disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane.

*““Watch and pray, lest  
you enter into  
temptation. The spirit  
indeed [is] willing, but  
the flesh [is] weak.””  
(Matthew 26:41 NKJV)*

We need God’s help each day to not fall into sin. And so we need to pray, that God protect us from the temptations and trials which would lead us to sin. We must watch and pray, knowing that we are prone to sin. We need to ask protection from the trickery of Satan, the Evil One. Oh that we make this an important part of our prayers.

## Conclusion

So, we come to the end of this model prayer. I invite you to start noticing how many the prayers of the Bible contain many of the components of this prayer. Let us learn to pray as our Lord Jesus Christ teaches us. Let us pray, acknowledging that God is our Father, and that He is sovereign over all our circumstances.

Let us cry out to God that His name be glorified, and his kingdom grow. Let us pray that we might walk according to HIS will in every area of our lives.

Let us present all of our needs to Him, remembering who God is and who we are to God, in Jesus Christ.

When we sin, let us be quick to truly and humbly confess our sins, and let us also be quick to forgive others.

My prayer is that we will all have more and more the heart of Christ, and that our prayers will reflect these truths. As our hearts align with the heart of God, and our prayers reflect the heart of Christ, our joy will increase, and our lives will bear fruit for eternity. May we be a praying people, praying as our Lord, Jesus Christ, teaches us.