

APPROACHING THE LORD IN PRAYER (part 1)

Hebrews 4:16, "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

Prayer is the precious communication line that the child of God has, by grace, with their Father in heaven. The Bible, in various places, instructs the child of grace to look to the Lord for help in times of need and, over and over again, we find where the Lord heard the prayers of the saints and answered them with His unlimited strength and power (Psalms 102:17).

In Luke 11:1 we find an interesting request. The disciples asked the Lord to "teach us to pray". When witnessing the Lord's prayers unto His Father, they too desired an intimate level of communication with God. In His precious instruction Jesus gave them, as well as all the saints throughout the generations, a wonderful model for prayer. Jesus taught them to approach the Lord in:

(1) Humility and love (Luke 11:2-3)! When the child of grace addresses the Lord of all, as "our Father", and when the words "Hallowed be thy name" flow across their lips, they are acknowledging the Lord's authority in heaven. What a precious blessing it is to call on the Lord, "who made the world and all things therein" (Acts 17:24), by the name Father. It is also equally important to remember that by doing so we are declaring Him to be the head, or law giver, of our lives. When we approach the Lord, our attitude should never be, I've got it figured out Lord, just wanted you to know, but we should, with contrite spirit, request the Lord to reveal to us what He would have us to be and do ("Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth", Luke 11:2).

(2) In reverence and godly fear (Luke 11:4)! In Proverbs 1:7 we learn that the "fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge". Throughout this Divinely inspired book in the Bible, we read the instruction to fear the Lord. Job feared the Lord (Job 1:1); Moses and the children of Israel feared the Lord (Exodus 14:31); David feared the Lord (Psalms 76:7); and the saints in New Testament times are said to fear the Lord (Acts 5:11; 9:31; 10:2). These men and women did not live in morbid horror of the Lord, but dwelled on this earth having reverence and respect. And we too, when we approach the Lord in prayer, should come before Him with reverential fear, acknowledging His authority as the Judge of all things.

(3) Faith, believing He is able (Luke 11:5-8)! Before the Lord's lesson was concluded, He, in His infinite wisdom, gave the disciples an amazing example of praying in faith. Each time we pray, we should pray believing that our Father in heaven is ABLE! The man that came to the house of his friend believed his had the bread that he was in need of. The requesting brother would endure in his plea, knowing his friend was not lacking in the supply (Phil 4:19). In Hebrews 11:6 we read, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is the rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, do you have a need? Are you heavy hearted because of the troubles of this world? Your heavenly Father has manifested time and time again His great love and care for you. The Holy men of God have instructed us to look to Him in those times. Let us approach Him, not in pride, arrogance or doubt, but in humility, reverence and faith believing and declaring that He is the Sovereign GOD !

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