



Becoming a Prayerful Christian

Luke: 11:1-2

If your personal prayer life is your job, will you still be employed?

If your salary was determined by your personal prayer life how much will you be worth?

If your level of education were determined by your prayer life, will a University graduate or you'll have to sent to the primary school?

For most of us, if we are sincere, the answers to these questions are not encouraging.

Many Christians are frustrated about their prayer lives

A consistent, vibrant personal prayer life is a struggle for many

How do we break this cycle of prayerlessness in our lives?

The Bible does not just tell us to be prayerful, it also teaches us how to become prayerful.

The passage we will be looking at is going to teach us to two lessons about becoming prayerful Christians.

If we hold on to these lessons, our life our prayer lives will change and become better, we will indeed become Prayerful Christians

1. v1 'Lord, teach us to pray' – becoming prayerful takes learning

Luke tells us a lot about the prayer life of Jesus.

at his baptism . . .

Before Choosing the twelve

Gethsemane

The disciples realised that the secret to Jesus ministry was that he prayed in secret. The disciples also realised they did not have the kind of prayer life Jesus had so one of the disciples (a spokesman's) comes to Jesus and say, 'Lord, tech us to pray'

This request of the disciple striking.

In Luke 9:1[the bible says], Jesus **gave** the disciples power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, but when it came to prayer the disciple had to come to Jesus to **learn**

They had to say, Jesus teach us, not Jesus give us

So the first thing we must understand if we want to become prayerful is that it takes learning

A vibrant prayer life is not a spiritual gift we receive; it is a spiritual discipline we develop.

Yes, prayer is simple, it is simply talking to God, but it not easy; It has to be learnt.

- Have you realised they are times you forget what you are praying about when you are praying?
There times you event forget **that** you are praying!
- To become prayerful takes learning.



illustration

i) Driving an automatic car: there is nothing mysterious or complicated about it. But it has to be learnt

ii) Riding a bicycle is very simple yet it has to be learnt.

Without learning the simple can become the impossible

Let me suggest two things about Learning to pray

- I. After the disciple had made the request in vs 1, vs 2 says 'So He [Jesus] **said** to them. Jesus began to give them information. Get information on prayer (theory)- study the prayer life of Jesus and others in the Bible; study the Lord's prayer, read Christian literature on prayer
- II. Look at vs 1 again. notice the disciple did not say 'Lord, teach us **about** pray' he said 'Lord, teach **us to pray**' They were not merely interested in information about pray, they wanted to **do** not just to **know**

➤ you can hear all the sermons on prayer you want,
you can memorise all the verses on prayer you want,
you can read all the great books on prayer you want
But if you don't make time to practice what you know you will never become prayerful

Knowledge is great, but knowledge without practice is fruitless.

Make a lot of time to put the information you get into practice (practical)

make time everyday to pray, every day.

there are times perhaps you will not even know what to tell God in prayer, don't get discouraged, understand that you are Learning.

there are times you will wake up at dawn to pray, and the next thing you notice it is the morning, you are on your bed and you are wondering how you get there!

don't get discouraged, understand that you are Learning.

let's look at the second lesson this passage teaches us about becoming a Prayerful Christian

2. v2 'Father'- **the secret to becoming prayerful is knowing God as Father**

Jesus is not just giving the formula to follow, so that every time they are going to pray they have to start by saying with 'Our Father' [Act 4:24 – 'sovereign God']

God is a King

God is the creator

God is all powerful

But to pray Jesus tells his disciples you they have to Know God as Father.

Jesus is teaching that the basis of prayer is the fatherhood of God



Jesus is saying the only way our prayer lives will take- off is to Know God as Father.

The secret to becoming prayerful is to know God as Father

For some of us the imagery fatherhood conjures is not a pleasant one. Fatherhood for most people has the connotation of a strict, principled, serious, harsh, no-nonsense person with a cane as his best friend!

So we have to ask you an important question:

a) What kind of a Father is God? Luke 15:11-32

From the parable we learnt that God is the gracious and compassionate father, who is ever ready and rejoices greatly to receive His son

The younger son's desire to return home was evoked by the Kind of father he knew his dad to be.

Do you know God to be such a father? Jesus is saying if you did you will pray!

We need to address another question

b) Why is God such a father to us? Mt 27: 45-46,51

Jesus was the first person to call God father in the Bible. In the Gospels he is always addressing God as Father. Jesus lived in perfect obedience to the will of his Father. He did all that his Father asked and only what his father asked. But at the end of his life we hear something shocking!

Mt 27:45-46

In Mt 27: 45-46. This was the only time Jesus did not address God as Father.

Why? because God was not being a father to him.

On the cross, Jesus took our sins and experienced the rejection we deserved; so that now when we believe in Him we can receive the acceptance he deserves. [John 17:22-23]

On the Cross God crushed Jesus for our sins, so that God will be a Father to us when we trust in Jesus. Jesus cried "my God my God" on the cross so we can cry "Abba Father".

The only begotten Son (Jesus) was crushed so we can become adopted sons of His Father [John 1:11-12, 12:24,17:22-23, Gal 3:26, 4:4-60]

- To the degree that you know and believe that God is your Father, to that degree you will become prayerful
Meditate on the Fatherhood of God till it becomes real in your heart.

I. **Those who want to change before they become prayerful**

There are some people who are saying to themselves "I have to stop my sexual immorality, smoking, theft . . . before I will become prayerful"

You have been telling yourself this for some years now, has it worked?

If you are waiting to stop your sins before you come to God, you are not treating him like a Father.

If you are waiting to stop masturbating before you become prayerful, [LISTEN], you will never stop the masturbating because you can never stop it by yourself.

The fact they you are struggling with a particular sin, in fact, is the more reason you should become a prayerful Christian.



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Being prayerful is the only way you can experience deep and abiding change.
If you learn to go to you Father just as you are, you will not remain as you are!

When does a child run into the arms of a loving father?

When things are fine or when he senses danger?

Fly into the arms of your loving Father, he is waiting to heal and restore you