



**“Getting Closer To The Flame: How To Experience  
More Of God”  
Prayer – What Do I Say To God?  
July 1, 2007 \* Luke 11:1-13**

I. “Lord, teach us to pray”

- A. The instinct to pray is almost universal. Examples:  
**Buddhists nailing prayer requests on cards to sacred trees;  
Muslims bowing 5 times a day towards Mecca;  
Catholics praying strings of “Hail Marys” and “Our Fathers”  
Americans at sports arenas & stadiums (!)**
  
- B. The challenges to prayer are considerable. Examples:  
**It’s difficult to pray to a God we can’t see.  
Hearing God’s voice is difficult ( a “still, small voice”)  
We are often disappointed with unanswered prayers.**
  
- C. What had the disciples seen of Jesus’ own prayer life?  
**Of all the gospel writers, Luke is eager to tell us of Jesus’ prayer  
life. The disciples saw that Jesus rose early to prayer, went to  
‘lonely places’ to pray, sometimes prayed all night.**
  
- D. Did Jesus teach the “Lord’s Prayer” to tell us the exact words to say?  
**No. Nowhere in the New Testament did anyone else pray this  
Prayer.**
  
- E. Why then did he teach it to us?  
**Though it is devotionally beneficial to pray this prayer verbatim,  
the reason Jesus taught it was primarily as a model for prayer. To  
give us a trailguide for how to hike up the mountain of prayer.**

The *Lord’s Prayer* model: How do we talk to God in prayer?

**II. We first come before Him with praise.**

*“Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name”*

- A. Why should we worship God? Does he need it?  
**God doesn’t ‘need’ it. If we refuse to praise Him, the rocks will.  
The truth is, *we* need to praise him, but it sets the universe in order,  
and puts things in their proper balance. In praising God we are  
recognizing the way things really are.**
  
- B. How do we worship God? With praise & thanksgiving.
  - 1. Praise is honoring God for who he is (the hats that he wears).
  
  - 2. Thanks is honoring God for what he has done (his works).

- C. In praise, we recognize the hats God wears, and the character he reveals.  
*“God, I praise you that you are a Father who is holy.”*

What else might we say in praise of God?

*“God, I praise you that you are a \_\_\_\_\_ who is \_\_\_\_\_.”*

**God’s ‘Hats’ (Titles)**

**Master**

**who**

**God’s Attributes/Character**

**leader**

**King**

**who is**

**just**

**Giver**

**who**

**provides**

**Counselor**

**who**

**comforts**

**Etc.**

- D. In thanksgiving, we express gratitude for blessings received. *Write out ten.*



**III. We next come before Him with petition.**

*“Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven”*

- A. The instinct when we pray is to jump in and start talking about what?  
**Me, myself and I.**

- B. What does God want us to start talking about?  
**Him, and his burdens, his hopes and dreams, his plans, his agenda.**

- C. When we pray, ‘Thy kingdom come’, what sort of things are we praying for?  
**For the prospering and growth of the church, for missionaries, for revival, for the lost to be saved, for ministries to flourish, etc.**

**IV. We next come before Him with personal requests.**

*“Give us this day our daily bread.”*

- A. Does God really want to hear about my life?  
**Yes! A thousand times yes.**

- B. *“But he’s too busy!” “But I’m just one person!”* To which we say...  
**God is so great, he is able to superintend all that he has made.**



**V. We next come before Him asking for pardon.**

*“And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.”*

- A. What things should I do to see my sin better?

1. Look at the **Cross**.
2. Look in God's **Word**.
3. Look in my **heart**.
4. Listen to the **Holy Spirit for his conviction**.

B. Then what?

**Receive forgiveness and freely give it to others.**

**VI. We next come before Him asking for power & provision.**

*"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."*

A. In what ways is life on earth like being in a war?

**Satan resists us.**

**The world and its culture opposes many if not most of our values.**

**Our own sinful flesh conspires against us.**



B. What are some specific ways in which we can pray for each other as we fight these battles?

**Follow the prayers of Paul in Ephesians 1 and Philippians 1 and Colossians 1 as he prayed for other believers.**

**VII. We conclude our time of prayer with praise.**

*"For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory. Forever and ever. Amen."*