**Learning “To Pray”**

**Reading - Luke 11:1-13**

The disciple in the text did not ask for Jesus to teach him “how” to pray. He asked that Jesus teach him “to pray.”

A model prayer as a guideline. ***Matthew 6:9‑13 "In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as [it is] in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. 13 And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. (NKJV)***

Note the following:

***2 Chronicles 7:14 "if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. (NKJV)***

***Isaiah 41:17 "The poor and needy seek water, but [there is] none, Their tongues fail for thirst. I, Jehovah, will hear them; [I,] the God of Israel, will not forsake them. (NKJV)***

***Zechariah 13:9 I will bring the [one‑third] through the fire, Will refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them. I will say, 'This [is] My people'; And each one will say, 'Jehovah [is] my God.'" (NKJV)***

***Matthew 21:22 "And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive." (NKJV)***

***John 15:7 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. (NKJV)***

***1 John 5:14‑15 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. (NKJV)***

An “Obituary” found in an old church bulletin:

**We are sorry to announce the passing of Mrs. Prayer Meeting. She died recently at the First Neglected Church on Ho-Hum Avenue. Born many years ago in the midst of a great revival, she was strong and healthy as a child, fed largely on Bible study she grew into world-wide prominence and was one of the most influential members of the Church family.**

**However, in recent years Sister Prayer Meeting has been failing in health, gradually wasting away until rendered helpless by stiffness of the knees, cooling of the heart, lack of spiritual sensitivity and the concern for spiritual things. Her last whispered words were inquiring about the strange absence of her loved ones, now so busy in the market place and places of worldly amusement on Wednesday evenings!**

**Experts, including Dr. Good Works, Dr. Socializing and Dr. Unconcerned disagree as to the fatal cause of her final illness. They all administered large doses of excuses, even ordered a last minute motivational bypass, all to no avail. A post-mortem examination showed that a deficiency of regular spiritual food, a lack of prayer and Christian fellowship, all contributed to her untimely demise.**

***1 Thessalonians 5:16‑18 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.***