

DAY TEN - FAST AND PRAY JANUARY 11, 2022

"True prayer is a way of life, not just for use in cases of emergency. Make it a habit, and when the need arises you will be in practice." - Billy Graham

"Prayer is the open admission that without Christ we can do nothing. Prayer is an expression of faith in God's power, fueled by a desire for more of Him." - John Piper

A study of the recorded prayers in Scripture shows that most are short and to the point. The publican prayed: "God, be merciful to me a sinner!" (Luke 18:13 NKJV) The thief on the cross prayed, "Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!" (Luke 23:42). When Peter was sinking after trying to walk on water he prayed, "Lord, save me!" (Matthew 14:30).

When the disciples said to Jesus "*Lord, teach us to pray*". He responded by repeating the very same model prayer He gave in the Sermon on the Mount. We call it the Lord's Prayer. As you can see, in this prayer there is not a wasted word, not a hint of vain repetition, and not a single note of ceremony or pretense.

"Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us day by day our daily bread. 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 11:2-4 NKJV

Tonight, let's use the elements of this prayer in our own prayers.

- 1. Begin with praise.** Make it Personal. What better way is there to spend your life than revealing through your life the glory of our God. Have you ever fully comprehended God's intention to use you to reflect the glory of His Son for the entire world to see? When you fully see Gods 'intention' toward you. Praise will become spontaneous and very personal.

2. Remember repentance. Psalm 51 is a perfect example of a prayer of repentance. Read it. Pray it from your heart.

"Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin." - Psalms 51:1, 2 NKJV

3. Ask for help. In His prayer, Jesus did that three ways:

A. "Give us day by day our daily bread."

B. "forgive us our sins."

C. "do not lead us into temptation."

Petition is a privileged element of prayer; therefore, we must be mindful that what we're making a request of God and it must be in accordance with His will and purpose.

"We are to pray in times of adversity, lest we become faithless and unbelieving. We are to pray in times of prosperity, lest we become boastful and proud. We are to pray in times of danger, lest we become fearful and doubting. We are to pray in times of security, lest we become self-sufficient."
- Billy Graham

"If you believe in prayer at all, expect God to hear you. If you do not expect, you will not have. God will not hear you unless you believe He will hear you; but if you believe He will, He will be as good as your faith." - Charles Spurgeon