



**SERIES: MY PRAYER LIFE**

## Prayer 101

**Life Reference: Luke 11:1-4**

**Focus Verse:**

**“Lord, teach us to pray” (Luke 11:1).**

Imagine. You are standing before a chalkboard. When I say a word, I want you to write every association and image that comes into your mind. Take as long as you like. Are you ready?

“Prayer.”

Okay. You did great. Next, I want you to erase every reference to stain glass windows and pristine altars. Forget your preconceived ideas about gray-haired saints and the apostles and prophets.

Now, we are ready to study prayer.



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## Life Reflection:

Do I know how to pray?

Do I feel comfortable talking to God?

Do I talk to God only when I need something or because I enjoy spending time with Him?

What are the things that keep me from prayer?

We are all novices—beginners when it comes to prayer. Prayer is simple. It requires no props or prose. It can be done anywhere, all the time, and in any language. Prayer can be a thought or spoken out loud.

Prayer requires no skills and has no educational prerequisites. It is not necessary to use Bible-eze when speaking to God. He understands our accents and local colloquialisms.

Throughout the Scriptures, God beckons us close. He wants to spend time with us and longs to assist us physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. He longs to be a part of our daily lives.

**"Come and dine" (John 21:12).**

**"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heaven laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).**

**"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Isaiah 1:18).**

**"I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people ... and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty" (2 Corinthians 6:16-18).**

**"Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you" (James 4:8).**





## Life Reflection:

What if He rejects me?

God is approachable. His love is unconditional. We may fail Him. As His children, He may even punish us. However, nothing can stop His love.

**“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God” (Romans 8:38-39)**

**“Him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out” (John 6:37)**

## Life Reflection:

Am I intimidated by the lives of other Christians?

At the foot of the cross, the ground is level. Comparing ourselves with others is never wise. Each person’s relationship with God is unique. We each bring our past, personalities, dreams, hopes, and fears with us when we come to God.

Maturity is relevant. A toddler may fall a lot and have a limited vocabulary, but he is perfect—mature for his age. If he is still at the same level ten years later, however, a problem exists. The same is true for Christians. We are born into God’s family, we are first infants, then we crawl, and eventually take baby steps. But as long we are growing, we are perfect—mature too.





## Life Reflection:

Am I hesitant to approach God because I know I'm unworthy?

Regardless of our age or stage, none of us are worthy of God's love. That is the beauty of this amazing relationship between God and mankind. He knew no sin (See 2 Corinthians 5:21.); we are sinners. With Him all things are possible (See Matthew 19:26.); we have limitations and handicaps. Yet, he cares for us.

## Life Reflection:

I mess up a lot. Will God keep forgiving me when I continue to sin?

God understands our propensity to sin. It is typical for each of us to believe we are the only one who falls or fails when it is the human condition.

**"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).**

God will work with us as long as we continue to try. When we sin, a simple prayer of repentance puts us back in right standing with Him.

**"For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight" (1 John 3:20-22).**





## Life Reflection:

The men and women in the Bible were super-Christians, weren't they?

If your Bible is a red-letter edition, you will notice that the words of Jesus are identified in red. I have been guilty of reading them and thinking, *Wow! But, of course, He's not talking to me!* But He was talking to me and to you too.

Even those he addressed in person had yet to experience salvation. Calvary was ahead of Christ, and the Holy Ghost had not been poured out. In Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John we find the words of Jesus, instructing the ordinary masses. What did He tell them? What was He saying to us?

**"Ask, and it shall be given you, seek; and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?" (Matthew 7:7-11).**

**"Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full" (John 16:24).**

Regardless of our pedigree, educational accomplishments, ethnicity, and social status, we are each invited to ask, seek, knock-talk with God. We can approach the Lord about anything, for everything, and for no reason at all.

**"Be careful (anxious) for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).**





## Life Response:

Like in any good conversation, both speaking and listening are required. As we pray, we must also allow God to speak to our hearts and minds. Often God uses His Word to talk to us. After praying for awhile, it is good to also read the Bible. Reading His Word prayerfully makes it come live. It is amazing how relevant it is to our daily lives.

**"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee"  
(Psalm 119:11).**

Time spent in prayer is never wasted. The way to learn about prayer is to pray. Won't you try it today?

## More Prayer References:

Psalm 27:8  
Psalm 109:4  
Psalm 116:1-9  
Psalm 118:21  
Matthew 6:5-15  
Matthew 21:22  
Luke 11:1-13  
John 11:41-42  
John 14:8-21

*Unless otherwise noted, Bible quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, King James Version.*

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