



# JESUS PRAYS

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*'But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.'*  
(Isaiah 40:31 NLT)

Once Jesus was in a certain place praying. As he finished, one of his disciples came to him and said, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

Jesus said, "This is how you should pray: "Father, may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon. Give us each day the food we need, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And don't let us yield to temptation."

Then, teaching them more about prayer, he used this story: "Suppose you went to a friend's house at midnight, wanting to borrow three loaves of bread. You say to him, 'A friend of mine has just arrived for a visit, and I have nothing for him to eat.' And suppose he calls out from his bedroom, 'Don't bother me. The door is locked for the night, and my family and I are all in bed. I can't help you.' But I tell you this—though he won't do it for friendship's sake, if you keep knocking long enough, he will get up and give you whatever you need because of your shameless persistence."

And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened."

You fathers—if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him." (Luke 11:1-13 NLT)

While Jesus was here on earth, he offered prayers and pleadings, with a loud cry and tears, to the one who could rescue him from death. And God heard his prayers because of his deep reverence for God. (Hebrews 5:7 NLT)

But Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer.  
(Luke 5:16 NLT)

'In our Christian lives there is nothing more important, and nothing more difficult to establish and maintain, than a meaningful prayer life.' — Alistair Begg

- 'Our Father' is unique to Christianity
- It can be a difficult concept for some people with poor experiences of earthly fathers
- We have to come to God as little children

*"I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn't receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it."*  
(Luke 18:17 NLT)

- The way to become a child of God is through 'new birth' (see the story of Jesus and Nicodemus in John 3)
- 'Adoption' is another descriptive word used frequently in the New Testament

*"Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son." (Ephesians 1:4-6 NLT)*

*"So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering."*  
(Romans 8:15-17 NLT)

Although God loves everyone and Jesus died on the cross for everyone, that does not make God everyone's father. We have to respond to God's invitation to come to Him through Jesus Christ — by grace through faith.

- The ongoing present danger of reverting to 'childish sonship' or 'arrogant, cynical sonship' (as in set in your ways, pride, jealousy, harmful ambition, easily offended, independent of God)
- Real Christian maturity is characterised by maintaining a childlike (not childish!) total dependence on God



### God as our Father

- This is the God who created the universe!
- He is awesome and powerful
- Unconditional love — He will never love you or be your Father more than He is today
- He loves us in spite of what we are!

*Long ago the Lord said to Israel: "I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting love. With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself." (Jeremiah 31:3 NLT)*

- He is always with us:  
*'I will never leave you nor forsake you'*
- He never gives up on us
- He loves hearing from us — everything
- He hears every prayer
- He wants what is best for us

### Childlike characteristics of small children

- Awestruck
- Keen to please
- Understand grace
- Totally dependent on parents and it is not a problem
- Quick to forgive offences
- They like winning without wrong ambition / jealousy / pride
- Don't compare themselves with other small children
- 'Pester power' — they have no problem asking (and keep asking) for things, even if outrageous
- They love talking all the time
- They are not afraid to ask questions

*'I will help thee', saith the Lord. (Isaiah 41:14)*

This morning let us hear the Lord Jesus speak to each one of us: 'I will help thee.'

'It is but a small thing for me, thy God, to help thee. Consider what I have done already. What! not help thee? Why, I bought thee with my blood. What! not help thee? I have died for thee; and if I have done the greater, will I not do the less? Help thee! It is the least thing I will ever do for thee; I have done more, and will do more. Before the world began I chose thee. I made the covenant for thee. I laid aside my glory and became a man for thee; I gave up my life for thee; and if I did all this, I will surely help thee now. In helping thee, I am giving thee what I have bought for thee already. If thou hadst need of a thousand times as much help, I would give it thee; thou requirest little compared with what I am ready to give. 'Tis much for thee to need, but it is nothing for me to bestow. Help thee? Fear not! If there were an ant at the door of thy granary asking for help, it would not ruin thee to give him a handful of thy wheat; and thou art nothing but a tiny insect at the door of my all-sufficiency. I will help thee.'

— CH Spurgeon