

**March 1**

## **Purpose of Prayer**

**Matthew 6:1-18**

**Do we have the purpose of getting needed power from God for the work?**

**What of unction? ...It is that which distinguishes and separates preaching from all mere human addresses. It is the divine in preaching. It makes the preaching sharp to those who need sharpness. It distills as the dew to those who need to be refreshed...This unction comes to the preacher not in the study but in the closet. It is heaven's distillation in answer to prayer. It is the sweetest exhalation of the Holy Spirit. It impregnates, suffuses, softens, percolates, cuts, and soothes. It carries the Word like dynamite, like salt, like sugar; makes the Word a soother, an accuser, a revealer, a searcher; makes the hearer a culprit or a saint, makes him weep like a child and live like a giant; opens his heart and his purse as gently, yet as strongly as the spring opens the leaves. This unction is not the gift of genius. It is not found in the halls of learning. No eloquence can woo it. No industry can win it. No prelatical hands can confer it. It is the gift of God.... (E. M. Bounds Complete Works, 479)**

March 2

## Purpose of Prayer

Matthew 6:1-18

One purpose of prayer is to receive the power of the Holy Spirit in our Christian life and ministry. This is often referred to as unction. Unfortunately,

often earnestness is mistaken for this unction. He who has the divine unction will be earnest in the very spiritual nature of things, but there may be a vast deal of earnestness without the least mixture of unction. Earnestness and unction look alike from some points of view. Earnestness may be readily and without detection substituted or mistaken for unction. It requires a spiritual eye and a spiritual taste to discriminate. Earnestness may be sincere, serious, ardent, and persevering. It goes at a thing with good will, pursues it with perseverance, and urges it with ardor; puts force in it. But all these forces do not rise higher than the mere human. The *man* is in it – the whole man, with all that he has of will and heart, of brain and genius, of planning and working and talking. He has set himself to some purpose which has mastered him, and he pursues to master it. There may be none of God in it. There may be little of God in it, because there is so much of man in it... Earnestness may be selfishness simulated. (E.M. Bounds, Complete Works, 479)

**March 3**

## **Purpose of Prayer**

**Matthew 6:1-18**

**We have seen the absolute need for God's power in our lives. How do we receive that power?**

**How and whence comes this unction? Direct from God in answer to prayer. Only praying hearts are the hearts filled with this holy oil; praying lips only are anointed with this divine unction. This unction is not an inalienable gift. It is a conditional gift, and its presence is perpetuated and increased by the same process by which it was at first secured; by unceasing prayer to God, by impassioned desires after God, by esteeming it, by seeking it with tireless ardor, by deeming all else loss and failure without it. Prayer, much prayer, is the price of preaching unction; prayer, much prayer is the one, sole condition of keeping this unction. Without unceasing prayer the unction never comes to the preacher. Without perseverance in prayer, the unction, like the manna overkept, breeds worms.” (E. M. Bounds, Complete Works, 482)**

**March 4**

## **Private Prayer**

**Matthew 6:1-18**

**Private prayer is greatly neglected. Private prayer is getting alone with God. It involves going into the closet and shutting the door. Some farmers have found spots in the feed bin or in the haymow where they could pray alone. Someone may find their spot in an empty room or in a corner here or there. Maybe one will find his spot like Vlado Fajfr did. Vlado seemed to be just walking the streets; but while he got his morning exercise, he was spending several hours in prayer. Do we know how to get alone with God in prayer?**

**Talk alone with the Lord. (Do not pray as the hypocrites who wanted everyone to notice.) Private prayer is letting the Lord see in secret what we need. He then rewards us openly because of our private prayer life. One preacher would not let anyone look in his Bible. He said his Bible was God's love letters to him. In the columns of that Bible, he wrote love letters back to God. Is God so close to us that we could write Him love letters? Do we know how to have a good time with just the Lord? Do we know how to get alone with God?**

**March 5**

**Private Prayer**

**Matthew 6:1-18**

**Private prayer ought to include fellowship with God. Let Him know how much you love Him. There was an old farmer from Vermont. He was asked if he had recently told his wife that he loved her. He said, “No, I told her that when we got married forty years ago, and I will let her know if I ever change my mind.” I think some Christians are like that farmer—“I told the Lord that I loved Him, and I will let Him know if I ever change my mind.” What do you think?**

**People like to hear how much we love them, and I think God likes to hear it. We were created to fellowship with God, and the best time to do that is alone in prayer with the Scriptures.**

**“I love the Lord, because He hath heard my voice and my supplications.” Psalm 116:1**

**“I will call on the Lord, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.” II Samuel 22:4**

**“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.” Ephesians 1:3**

**“I will freely sacrifice unto thee: I will praise thy name, O Lord: for it is good.” Psalm 54:6**

**“For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.” Psalm 86**

**March 6**

**Private Prayer**

**Matthew 6:1-18**

**Time alone with God is a good time to repent of known sin. It is a good time to pray what it says in Psalm 139-- "Search me... try me... and see if there be any wicked way in me...." Let God uncover the secrets of our hearts. Let Him show us those secrets while we are alone. Can we imagine someone standing up in public and praying, "Lord, I think my heart is right; but I am not sure it is right. I want to wait before You and let You tell me whether it is right." Then he just waits before God. There might be a rare occasion for this in public prayer, but in private prayer this ought to be common. Let God start searching our hearts while we are in private. Let God talk to us. Is there anything in our hearts that grieves the Holy Spirit? Is there anything that hinders our zeal? We need to set aside time and let God work through these issues in our souls. Three minutes with God in private prayer is not enough. Do not rush.**

**Jacob's victory of faith could not have been gained without that all-night wrestling. God's acquaintance is not made by quick visits. God does not bestow his gifts on the casual or hasty comers and goers. Much time with God alone is the secret of knowing him and of influence with him." (E.M. Bounds, Complete Works, 460)**

**March 7**

## **Private Prayer**

**Matthew 6:1-18**

**In private prayer we should also make time to deal with our flesh nature. As we examine our hearts, we may not find unconfessed sin or wrong attitudes. The Bible speaks of a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. He was a man perfect and upright before God and man. Even the devil could not find anything wrong with Job. The devil believed that Job would change if his circumstances changed. God allowed the devil to change Job's circumstances but not his health. Later, God allowed the devil to change Job's health but not take his life. Why did God allow all this? Job was a man that was perfect before God and man. Nothing could be pointed out as wrong in his life. The devil could not find a thing wrong with him. However, God let Job himself find something wrong. He was born with a sinful nature. There were not any acts of sin, but there was a corrupted nature inside. Job had to repent of this. We too will learn of the corruption of our flesh nature and then need to deal with it. Have you sensed a rottenness on the inside and seen the need for the regular working of the Lord Jesus Christ? Let us deal with our flesh in private prayer.**

**March 8**

## **Private Prayer**

**Matthew 6:1-18**

**In private prayer you may ask God for an increased vision or a new area of opportunity. You may want to ask for the filling of the Holy Spirit. Earlier this month we saw the need for the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives and ministries. In Luke 11 we are told to ask for the Holy Spirit. You say, “Well, I am already indwelt.” Yes, but are you filled? Are you anointed? Do you have His unction in what you are doing? That might have happened in the past. It did to Peter, but he kept asking for it again and again in the book of Acts. Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit shortly after he was saved, but he was also filled with the Holy Spirit on the island of Cyprus in Acts 13:9. There were other times that Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit. In Ephesians 5:18, Paul commanded us to be filled with the Holy Spirit. This is something to pray about in private.**



**March 9**

## **Public Prayer**

**Matthew 6:1-18**

**In public prayer the one leading prays in such a way that everybody in their hearts and souls might join in the prayer. In essence each is saying, “Amen, so be it. That is right. I agree. That is what I want.” Sometimes one person is asked to lead in prayer for a particular need. Does that mean we only want one person to pray? No, we want that person to pray so that in their heart everyone can join. Together we lift up our souls and come in a chorus before the throne praying for that specific need.**

**Sometimes, as I come into the service, I will ask if a specific person is present. Why would I do that? A topic of general interest may bring specific hurt to the person that might be there. I do not want to offend in public prayer. Consider. You might privately pray, “God, help the women of the church to be subject to their husbands.” (That sounds like a man praying, doesn’t it?) I do not know that that would be the most suitable topic for public praying. Perhaps a person has a real problem with bitterness. Do not pray about that in public but in private. There are some things of your own soul that are best discussed with God in private and not in public.**

**March 10**

## **Public Prayer**

**Matthew 6:1-18**

**Public prayer is prayer together in public. Those who lead in prayer want to have an idea of what lies on the hearts of the various people of that congregation. They want to address heart issues and heart burdens of that group. At a wedding do not ask God to comfort those people in sorrow. Is it wrong to pray for God to comfort people in sorrow? No, but there is a time and place for that. At a wedding we are rejoicing at what God is putting together and asking blessings and help and strength for the couple. If a church has had to exercise discipline, hearts are broken over someone that has stumbled and fallen. That is not the time to pray thanking God for all the victories in Christ Jesus. At another time, we rejoice in victories. Some issues are generally acceptable for public prayer. We can pray for missionaries and missionary work particularly when this is on the hearts of the people present. Awareness of the time and place and a sense of the hearts of those present are desirable for those who lead in prayer.**

**I do not know if a person ever masters public prayer. We learn, and progress is made. Public prayer is a responsibility. I do not know of anyone that is effective in ministry who is comfortable with public praying.**

**March 11**

## **Public Prayer**

**Matthew 6:1-18**

**Public praying ought to be humble. (It is not standing on the street corner saying, “Listen. I am about to pray.”) Public prayer ought to be missing many of the fancy, catchy phrases that are so impressive. We are not trying to impress anybody. We are not going to impress God. Come meekly before God to present requests. Have a clear purpose, and humbly present your request. The choir of people who wants to silently pray along with you lets you take the lead. In their hearts, they follow in agreement with you. This is public prayer.**

**We want to be in the Spirit praying. Approach public prayer in a proper, meek spirit. I encourage new converts to learn how to pray and how to approach God by listening to the saints of God. If the prayers new converts hear are a lot of hypocrisy, the new converts will pray like hypocrites too.**

**Public prayer is an opportunity to lead others in worship. Do you know how to sound the notes of glory that will ring in other people’s souls? You worship, and you help others to be humble before God and worship too.**

March 12

## Partnerships in Prayer

Matthew 18:19, 20

In a partnership two or three can accomplish what one may not be able to accomplish alone. It would be good for each of us to have at least one partner in prayer. Not a partner we are teaching, but somebody that would be evenly yoked in a full partnership. In law firms a lawyer or two lawyers go together and establish a partnership. They may then recruit some other lawyers to work in the law firm. These other lawyers are not partners. They are novices. The ones that invited them have already established the practice. They have established the clientele. They have established the reputation. They have made progress and will gradually bring the novices along. A novice who begins to make some progress may one day become a full partner in the firm. This is a mark that he is reaching a level similar with the original partners.

Look for a prayer partner of similar ability or maybe slightly more. When you partner with someone with slightly more ability, you yourself make a little progress. I like it when someone of greater ability wants to partner with me in prayer. I am going to learn a lot and work hard to try to be worthy of that prayer partnership.

**March 13**

## **Partnerships in Prayer**

**Matthew 18:19, 20**

**Partnership in prayer is two or three people coming together in agreement and praying about a request. God has given promises and guarantees to partners in prayer. I can remember in years gone by when I would get with Brother Cooper. He was senior partner in praying. He would say, “Paul, I need someone to pray with me about a matter, and I want you to pray with me.” I remember one time Brother Cooper called.**

**There is a rebellion in the church. The deacons’ wives have stirred up the deacons, and the deacons have stirred up the people. There is going to be a vote. There are far more against me than there are for me. I want you to pray that this matter is resolved properly and that the leaders of this rebellion get exposed.**

**Brother Cooper asked me what we were praying about. I told him. He asked how we wanted it to turn out. We discussed it. When we finally got in agreement, we were ready to pray. The two of us in agreement saw Heaven answer. God confounded people’s minds. He did not change their opinions, but He confounded their minds. The leaders made such a complicated motion that people voted the opposite of what they really meant. An overwhelming majority voted for Brother Cooper to stay. The leaders of the rebellion were exposed. Brother Cooper needed a partner in prayer, and together we saw God answer.**

March 14

## Partnerships in Prayer

1 Peter 3:7

**Ideally, husbands and wives should be partners in prayer. Who should be more of one heart and mind than a husband and a wife? Can you understand the heartache of those who have an unsaved spouse and are robbed of what could be the most intimate, binding partnership in prayer? They have to find all of their partnerships in prayer outside of the marriage bond. Husbands ought to work with their wives and wives with their husbands lest their prayers together be hindered. It would be an awful thing to find that because of the way that they are getting along with their partner, their praying is hindered. Perhaps a husband is not as advanced as his wife in praying, or a wife is not able to keep up with her husband. The spouse needs to pray and encourage him or her along. The husband and wife prayer partnership is the most intimate of relationships, but there should be other prayer partnerships as well.**

**If you do not have a spouse, find somebody. Find somebody that you can partner with in prayer. Preferably and almost exclusively, your partner should be of the same sex and level of prayer. Rare, rare, rare would be the case of a man and a woman coming together in a partnership in prayer. Too many potential problems could come out of that, and the Devil knows how to use those problems.**

March 15

## Partnerships in Prayer

**1 Peter 3:7**

**Coca-Cola is a very wealthy company. If a company such as an airline is struggling, Coca-Cola may offer to buy a whole lot of that airline's stock. That partnership helps the airline, and the airline helps Coca-Cola by using only Coca-Cola products on their airline.**

**Pepsi found that they could not enter into the fast-food business with Pepsi products. They decided the only solution was to buy Pizza Hut, Taco Bell and Kentucky Fried Chicken. They bought these three businesses and put them in partnership with Pepsi-Cola. Guess what kind of soda these three businesses sell! These partnerships help Pepsi and the businesses with which they are partners.**

**Prayer partnerships help us enter the throne room with greater ease and confidence. When we enter the throne room and we have a praying saint (a Vlado Fajfr or a Ruth Fajfr or a Ray Bearden or an Edgar Thomas or a Bob Doom) standing by our side, don't you think that makes it easier to make the request?**

**March 16**

## **Problems in Prayer**

**Luke 11**

**By nature we are all evil. We were born with a flesh nature. Luke 11:13 says, “If you then being evil know how to give good gifts....” The truth of this verse is evident during the Christmas holiday. (Giving good gifts does not make up for evil. It does not change evil, nor does it deal with evil.) Being evil, we can still give good gifts. How much more shall our Heavenly Father give good gifts? He is good by nature. Evil can give good gifts, and our Heavenly Father can give even better gifts. We need to understand that the result of prayer is not getting what we deserve but receiving magnificently from a good God. God’s good gifts go beyond what we could give or get on our own without prayer.**

**“Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.” Ephesians 3:20**



March 17

## Problems in Prayer

Luke 11

**Just about everyone has problems in prayer. Some have enough problems that they have quit praying. They knocked and did not get an answer immediately; so they left instead of continuing to knock. That is not the solution.**

**There are problems that do come up in the prayer life. Problems help us to grow. They help us to make progress. Keep in mind that the Lord Himself has already been tempted with whatever tempts you. He was tempted in all points like we are yet without sin. He is a merciful High Priest. He knows the feelings of our infirmities. He went through heartaches and trials and difficulties. Problems in prayer are not something new and unique in my case or in your case. The Savior has already been there, and others have been there. This should help and encourage us in this matter of prayer.**

**For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.  
Hebrews 4:15-16**

**March 18**

## **Problems in Prayer**

**Luke 11**

**From this world**

**We are influenced by this world system in which we live. The philosophy of the multitudes influences us. This influence affects our prayer lives. We are foolish to think that we can ignore the world when we are praying. A conflict comes. The world is religious by nature, but they are headed in a different direction. They have a wide gate, and they have a broad road. However, these lead to destruction. “Wide is the gate, and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction” (Matthew 7:13). Picture a wide road, and running right up the middle of that wide road is a very narrow road. Virginia is trying to widen I-81 to four lanes on each side. Imagine riding your bicycle up that widened interstate. You try to stay exactly on a narrow yellow line while the vehicles are coming in the opposite direction. That is what you face as a Christian. You are going against the tide. You are going against the system. However, if God is for you, you do not have to worry about all those in this world system.**

**March 19**

## **Problems in Prayer**

**Luke 11**

**From this world**

The world tries to affect our prayer lives. The world presses in on our time. The phone will ring. Someone will come to the door. A child will wake up from his or her nap. All kinds of things can happen when we start to pray. People will tell us that we should not spend so much time praying because we will go crazy. When I was researching the life of godly Daniel Nash, I went to the village where he died praying. I went to the undertakers to see if I could find out if they had a document that would tell what the doctors said was the cause of death. I explained about this man and what he did. I told of the parsonage where he had been that was situated just behind the funeral home. I said that Daniel Nash had been praying when he died. The undertakers just looked at me and said, “Anybody that prayed that much is crazy, and it is just as well that he died.” A lot of people in the world would say Daniel Nash was a crazy man to pray all that time. The world will ask why *you* have to spend so much time praying. The world will say that *you* give too much time to prayer. The world will say that *you* can pray a little at home. The world will say that *you* do not need to pray with others several times a week. The world will say that *you* do not need to go to prayer meeting every week or twice a week.

March 20

## Problems in Prayer

Luke 11

From this world

The world does not think we ought to have an emphasis on prayer. If we are going to pray, prayer should be moderately tossed into an un-filled schedule. Making prayer a focus or an emphasis goes against how the world thinks. They have a totally different emphasis, and they would like to force their way of thinking on us. Prayer can easily be crowded out if we are not careful.

The process of hindering prayer by crowding out is simple and goes by advancing stages. First, prayer is hurried through. Unrest and agitation, fatal to all devout exercises, come in. Then the time is shortened, relish for the exercise palls. Then it is crowded into a corner and depends on the fragments of time for its exercise. Its value depreciates. The duty has lost its importance. It no longer commands respect nor brings benefit. It has fallen out of estimate, out of the heart, out of the habits, out of the life. We cease to pray and cease to live spiritually (E. M. Bounds, Complete Works, 342).

**March 21**

## **Problems in Prayer**

**Luke 11**

**From this world**

**Few things in the world's music will not unsettle one's prayer life. Maybe we have some rap music playing, or we are listening to heavy metal. Imagine trying to struggle in prayer for a lost person's soul? The music would destroy our concentration in prayer. The world's music is generally counter-productive to prayer. That music is not geared to put us in a prayerful attitude. It does not help us to maintain our prayer lives. We need to realize that. Saturation with the world's music will affect us and our prayer lives.**

**The world's idea of entertainment and fun is not a prayer meeting. Why would we go to a prayer meeting? Why don't we have fun? That is how the world thinks. They will influence us if they can. Worldlings are not praying people.**

March 22

## Problems in Prayer

Luke 11

From the flesh

Our flesh creates problems in prayer. The nature that we were born with is a sin nature. It seeks to get all the pampering it wants; and if it does not get pampered, it speaks up. I was in Staples recently, and they were trying to get us to buy things that we had no intention to buy. They were bombarding our ears with a commercial that says, "It is all about me." That is exactly what most people think. Life is not about Jesus, not about souls, and not about eternity. It is all about me. When I am pleased, then everything is alright. That is the flesh. The flesh is self-centered. In Luke 9:23 Jesus said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." I like one thing that John Kennedy said, "Ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country." He was attacking the "me" generation of the early sixties. John Kennedy died, and his attack died. Some me-centered people came in. Everything revolved around them. Today, if everything revolves around us, we will not be effective in our praying.

March 23

## Problems in Prayer

Luke 11

From the flesh

**Self-centered praying is praying about how things affect me and not about the cause of Christ. The martyrs cared more about Jesus than themselves. The apostles cared more about Jesus than themselves. The biblical church down through the centuries has cared more about the dying world and the cause of Christ than itself. Individuals sacrificed themselves for the cause of the gospel. Today, we have a me-centered generation. Some supposed churches have copied a plan that has made the church purpose driven. That purpose is to make people happy. That purpose is not to please Jesus but to please people. Churches are centered on the people in the church and not on the Head of the church. This is what people want. Of course they do. This is the flesh. The flesh is the enemy of a prayer life.**

March 24

## Problems in Prayer

Luke 11

From the flesh

It may be the lust of the flesh, the pride of life and the lust of the eyes that interfere in our prayer lives. These things appeal to the flesh. The sin nature wants to sin and wants sin to be tolerated. It does not want anyone to interfere. The sin nature caters to the flesh rather than to a Holy God. Generally, the flesh is impatient. The flesh is demanding. It wants this. It wants that. It constantly is pressing for one thing or another. This impatient, demanding flesh affects our prayer lives. Brother Harold Jones told about a preacher that prayed for one request for ten months. He prayed hours every day. Most people would quit after a few minutes on one day. Impatient, they want God to hurry up and answer; or they will quit asking. That preacher prayed with importunity. He was not going to let impatience take over. He would be patient until he had the answer.



March 25

## Problems in Prayer

Luke 11

From the flesh

The flesh is lazy. The flesh may cause anger to rise up. Perhaps the flesh says, “God did not answer me the way I wanted or when I wanted. I don’t want to put all that energy into prayer.” Remember. Jesus said that the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. The flesh will be weak to accomplish anything that prayer needs to do. Evelyn Reno said, “Some Christians are piano-bench carriers.” What does that mean? When there is a piano to move, some Christians volunteer to carry the bench. When there is heavy work, they look for the lightest part. That is the flesh. In regard to prayer, the flesh says that it cannot do much. It just does not have much energy or desire. (In regard to fun or pleasing itself, the flesh can accomplish an amazing amount!) The flesh is a problem in praying.

March 26

## Problems in Prayer

Luke 11

From the Devil

The devil is a problem in prayer. He said, "I will be like the Most High" (Isaiah 14:14b). He wants a religious following. The devil does not mind when some people pray because they do not pray biblically. They do not pray from a right foundation. Hindus, Buddhists, Jewish people without Christ, Confucians, Shintoists, Mormons, Catholics and Muslims pray. Why do you suppose that the devil lets them do that? The devil is able to use those prayers for his purposes. In those prayers He is able to gain advantage against right praying. The devil will energize wrong praying just as he energizes wrong worship, wrong evangelism and wrong teaching. He energizes wrong praying, and he assists it. The devil will counterfeit. His goal is praying close to right praying but praying that is not heard by God. The devil will guide wrongly. If we want to be right, he will resist us and battle us every inch of the way. Easy praying is not necessarily right praying.

March 27

## Problems in Prayer

Luke 11

From the Devil

The devil is a problem in prayer. He causes trouble by counterfeits and resistance. He creates problems in having time and energy, in keeping our focus and in praying in a Biblical fashion. We need to know what Biblical praying is. A preacher that had a church of 30,000 in South Korea wrote a book on prayer. (I read only the first part of his book and had no interest in reading any farther.) He was teaching oriental idolatry in Christian praying. Though he used different terms, he wanted us to visualize what we want. This is ancient idolatry. This visualization in prayer and in life is something that the devil will use. We cannot find support for this in the Scriptures. We can find some things that oppose it. This preacher in South Korea was selling English translation books by the hundreds of thousands in the United States. For perhaps a decade, people followed his teaching. He was teaching on prayer but not Biblical prayer. His was a heathen prayer style. We have been told not to pray as the heathen. We are not to copy their methods. Many people do not understand Biblical praying and can open themselves to all kinds of problems.

March 28

## Patterns in Prayer

Luke 11

The Sermon on the Mount that is recorded in Matthew was early in Christ's ministry. That was the pattern prayer He gave as He began to teach the disciples. Now, He is well along in His ministry and they have watched Him for quite some time. The disciples had come and had asked Him to teach them to pray. It is as if He says, "Hey, fellows, you remember that outline I gave you a while back? Here it is in brief." We need to make sure we have His pattern so that we have a right pattern to follow for prayer. The pattern is a rather simple outline. God is our Father. He is not just God, but He is our Father. Our relationship is personal. We enter into fellowship and into the glory of that fellowship. Our Father is in heaven. We realize that we are not talking to some *thing* out there in the air. We are addressing the One that is there in the throne room. When we come to God in prayer, we remember who He is to us and where He is!

March 29

## Patterns in Prayer

Luke 11

Our Father which art in Heaven, make me have a great name. No! Hallowed be thy name. The holiness of His name is the great concern that has brought us to His throne room. It is *His* name and *His* reputation. “Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in Heaven” (Matthew 6). We are concerned about His reputation. We are concerned about His kingdom and its operation on earth. We are concerned that His will be done on earth as it is done in Heaven. All the concern is a God-focused concern. We then consider our personal needs. We ask, seek and knock. When these are done, the pattern prayer returns to God and His glory. “For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen” (Matthew 6).

We need a pattern in prayer that puts the focus on God and not on us. We enter into the throne room with a consciousness of God. We are there about God’s business, God’s kingdom and God’s testimony. We then make our requests in the light of that focus. As we finish, we again focus on the God of glory and the glory of God. To focus on ourselves would be flesh like. “Heavenly Father, here is my list,” reflects most prayers. Most do not focus on God and His glory. Christ’s pattern is in Matthew. It is in Luke. Though you will see some differences, these are the same pattern. Learn how to pray with this pattern.

March 30

## Patterns in Prayer

Luke 11

Another pattern to study is found in Paul's prayers. We can read the epistles and find out about his prayer life. Usually something implies praying always for the people. Paul did not just mention people once. He prayed continually over and over for church after church after church. For people here and people there and for different needs and different problems, he prayed. Paul seemed to have the same outline for prayer. He usually started with praising God and thanking Him. "I thank God upon every remembrance of you" (Philippians 1:3). Paul thanked God for the people in Corinth that were in that difficult situation. He also prayed that things there would get better. He was not blind to the problems, but he knew how to pray. God honored Paul's prayers and recorded them for us.

March 31

## Patterns in Prayer

Luke 11

What do you pray for in the morning? What do you pray for during the day? What do you pray for at night when you are going to bed? Years ago I read about a godly Sunday school teacher who was a prayer warrior in his church. He was a single man and lived alone. In Sunday school, he taught some boys of a mischievous age (probably junior high). The boys knew that their teacher prayed and received answers and that he walked with God. They discussed how much he prayed at night and who he prayed for and what he prayed for before bed. The boys decided to investigate their teacher's prayer life. Some of the boys were able to sneak into the house. They got under this man's bed. They lay there as quietly as they could and waited. Their teacher came in and got ready for bed. He did not kneel or pray long. Underneath the bed, the boys were pondering this. Their teacher turned the light out and got in the bed. "Good night, Lord. It has been a great day," he said and went to sleep. After he was asleep, the boys slipped out of the house. The other boys were waiting. They asked how long and for what their teacher had prayed. "He has been praying all day," answered the boys. "He just finished it up when he got in bed!" That is the way to live!