

CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS: Lord, Teach Me How To Pray!

Scripture used: [Luke 11:1–2 \(NLT\)](#); [Matthew 6:9–13 \(NKJV\)](#); [Acts 9:11 \(NLT\)](#)

OVERVIEW

Pastor Hurmon began by remembering a desperate prayer from third grade. After receiving an F in a class, he walked outside for hours asking God for a miracle. When the formal report card arrived, somehow the grade had become a C, sparing him serious punishment. Long before he understood much about theology, he was learning something essential: prayer is about relationship with God. Jesus modeled that relationship throughout His life. He prayed after His baptism, in the wilderness, before choosing His disciples, around miracles, and even through betrayal and crucifixion. Prayer was as indispensable to Jesus as breathing, and the early church followed His example. Yet many of us treat prayer as optional or transactional. Jesus invites us into a deeper relationship in which we remember who God is, understand who we are to Him, and learn to pray with trust and openness to His response.

KEY POINTS

1. **Prayer is a relationship, not a transaction.** Jesus prayed continually because prayer was central to His relationship with the Father. Prayer is not merely something we use when we want God to solve a problem. God is not a vending machine. Prayer is an ongoing conversation with the God who loves us and wants to be present in our lives.
2. **God wants us to pray and expect Him to respond.** One barrier to prayer is believing that we are somehow unworthy of God's attention. But God's willingness to hear us is based on His love, not our goodness. We can expect a response because He desires a relationship with us. We do not have to master prayer before beginning. We simply have to believe enough to pray.
3. **God's response will not always be "yes."** Another barrier to prayer is assuming that faithful prayer means receiving everything we request. God sometimes gives us what we want, but He always gives us what we need, and He is always willing to give us Himself. Following Jesus does not remove sin, sickness, loss, or death from this world. Prayer instead teaches us to trust God through every answer and every circumstance.
4. **Prayer moves us from what God can do for us to what God can do through us.** The Lord's Prayer is intentionally communal: Jesus teaches us to pray "our" and "us," not simply "my" and "me." Prayer connects us to God and to one another. The early church lived this out by sharing their lives and resources so that God's goodness could flow through the community ([Acts 2:44–47 \(NLT\)](#)). Mature prayer shifts our thinking from asking only, "God, what will You do for me?" toward asking, "God, what do You want to do through me?"

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Prayer was indispensable to Jesus because His life flowed from His relationship with the Father. God invites us into that same kind of relationship. We can bring Him our needs, fears, hopes, and questions, trusting that He wants to hear from us. Prayer is not a formula for controlling outcomes; it is the practice of living in communion with a God who loves us.
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - How have you tended to approach prayer: as a relationship or as a transaction? Are you reluctant to pray because you feel unworthy, because you are unsure how to pray, or because God has not answered previous prayers the way you hoped?
- 3) **DO** - This week, begin each day with one simple prayer: "**Lord, teach me how to pray.**" Then spend time talking honestly with God and listening for His response. As you pray, remember who God is and who you are to Him. Ask not only what you need from God, but also how God might use you to meet the needs of someone else.