

## PRAYER (I) (Luke 11:1)

### WHY WE ARE TO PRAY

**Ps. 65:2; Heb. 11:6** Both the O.T. And the N.T. Teach us that God hears the prayers of His children. Heb.11:6 teaches us first of all we must have faith in God, but that is not the thrust of this verse. The verse actually emphasizes that God rewards them that go to Him in prayer by answering! There is a God and He delights to hear and answer prayer.

**Lu. 18:1** We are commanded by God to pray. Not that some should pray but that everyone should. It is our duty to obey His command.

**Phil. 4:6** We are to not only pray but we are to pray about everything, big, little, friend or foe.

**Eph. 6:18-19** As these Christians at Ephesus were to pray for Paul, it is definitely implied that we are to pray for one another, especially for ministers of the Gospel.

**Ja. 4:2** Fighting, warring, struggling and scheming is not God's way for Christians to get things. It is not because we work not or plan not it is because we ask not. Asking is God's way of us getting things.

**Matt. 6:11** We are certainly not to loaf around without working for a living, however, we are not to just depend on our work to get food for our family. We are to pray and ask God for daily sustenance.

**Col. 4:14** When we are ill God loves for us to seek His healing, however, God has shown in the scriptures that many times He chooses to heal by human instrumentality, that's why we have doctors.

**John 16:24** When we have learned to pray as God would have us pray, His promise to us is that we can have a life that is full of joy. If that is not the case in our lives, then we are to blame not God.

**I Kings 18: 36-37** When we look carefully at this prayer we see that Elijah is asking God to prove to those false prophets that He is the true and only God and that doing so will convince the people of God's power and authority. God wants to hear and answer our prayers so we can tell the skeptics around us what God has done in our life of prayer.

### ASKING

**Matt. 7:7-11** Look carefully at how Jesus explains to those who are listening exactly what prayer is. He says that prayer is asking with an expectation of receiving. He goes on and says that prayer is seeking until you find and knocking until the door opens. Jesus compares our earthly father to our heavenly Father in that when we are asked by our child for something we normally will try to give it to them if it is not harmful to them. God is much better than our earthly father and wants to give to us.

**Ps. 150:6** The bible teaches us in many scriptures that we ought to praise the Lord always, but praise is one thing and prayer is another thing.

**Ps. 1:2** David tells us that we should meditate on God's word as often as possible, however, meditation is not prayer.

**James 4:10** James teaches us that it is proper and expected that Christians should humble themselves before God, but humiliation is not prayer.

**II Chron. 7:14** It is plainly noted in this famous portion of scripture that humility comes before prayer, they are two separate commands within this verse. Humility or humiliation is not prayer.

**Phil. 4:6** Note that prayer is one thing and thanksgiving is another thing. Thankfulness is not prayer.

**Matt. 6:9-13; Luke 18:4; Matt. 14:30; Mark 10:47; Mark 10:51; Matt:15:22; Matt. 15:25; Luke 23:42.** If we were to study these and other prayers in the O.T. Or N.T. It would be perfectly clear that real prayer is us asking and God providing. How do you pray? Most of us do not pray correctly.