



**Prayers &
Prayer
Teachings In
The Book Of
Luke, #1**

I. INTRODUCTION

A. I have often said in my life that I cannot fathom any faithful Christian going through a single day without praying many prayers!

B. Surely one of the pictures we form in our mind of the Lord Jesus Christ is of Him in earnest prayer!

II. EXAMPLES AND TEACHINGS OF PRAYER IN LUKE

**A. Zacharias prayed and John the Baptist was born-
Luke 1:5-25.**

1. Zacharias and Elizabeth had no child because Elizabeth was barren, and both of them were well stricken in years-v. 7.

2. Both of them were righteous before God because they walked in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord-v. 6.

3. Zacharias was a priest and Elizabeth was a descendant of Aaron-v. 5.

4. While Zacharias was performing his priestly duties, Gabriel appeared to him and told him that Elizabeth would bear him a son-vs. 11-19.

5. Gabriel told Zacharias that John would be great in the sight of the Lord and would turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord, and many of the hearts of the fathers would be turned to their children-vs. 15-17.

6. This reminds us of another similar situation with Hannah's prayer-See I Samuel 1:9-20.

7. It is worthy of mention that both Samuel and John the Baptist were great servants in the hand of the Lord, and both of them came because of fervent prayer!

B. Simeon prayed for a peaceful departure after he had seen baby Jesus-see the record in Luke 2:22-35.

“Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace”-v. 29.

1. If someone should ask me why some of God’s servants were allowed to die a peaceful death and others died in a horrible manner; my answer would be that “God willed it to be that way!”

2. Its comforting to know there’s a possibility that we can die a peaceful death based upon our prayer!

3. On the other hand, who can read the account of Samson’s death without shedding tears of appreciation for his great courage!-See the record in Judges 16:27-31.

4. Samson had prayed to die with the Philistines-vs. 28-30.

C. Anna, the prophetess. The record about Anna is very brief, but speaks to us of a woman who served God, and was dedicated to the point of praying night and day!

“And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day”-Luke 2:37.

1. Are we not reminded of the Lord’s emphasis upon “daily” in the prayer recorded in Matthew 7:9-13.

2. *“And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in the breaking of bread, and in prayer”-Acts 2:42.*

3. *“Pray without ceasing”-I Thessalonians 5:17.*

D. Jesus was praying when He was baptized.

“Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened”-Luke 3:21.

“And the Holy Spirit descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased”-v. 22.

“And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest unto Israel, therefore I am come baptizing with water. And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.

And I knew him not; but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit, descending and remaining on him, the same is he that baptizeth with the Holy Spirit.

*And I saw and bare record that this is the Son of God”-
John 1:31-34.*

1. The Spirit of God was sent upon Jesus when He was baptized for identification purposes!

2. Though we are not told why Jesus prayed, wouldn't it be a good practice for all people to pray for steadfastness to the Lord when they are baptized?

3. Immediately after Jesus was baptized, He was led and driven by the Spirit of God into the wilderness where He was tempted of Satan for 40 days and nights-See Matthew 4:1 & 2; Mark 1:12 & 13.

4. It seems logical to me that the Lord's prayer at His baptism was for His strength to resist Satan during the 40 day period!

E. Jesus prayed all night before He chose the 12 apostles-see Luke 6:12-16.

1. Please note that the Lord had told the disciples to pray that laborers would be sent into the harvest just shortly before His prayer all night.

“Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers unto his harvest”-Matthew 9:38.

2. It was apparently the next day when the Lord chose the 12 from the midst of all the disciples.

3. The Lord recognized the principle of “working after praying!”

4. The Lord told the 70 to pray to the Lord of harvest that He would send forth labourers into his harvest-see Luke 10:1 & 2.

5. Ultimately, Christians need to view these prayers as prayers on behalf of the lost!

6. It is proper to pray for the lost-see Romans 10:1-3.

7. If Christians pray on behalf of the lost, they are obligated to seek and save the lost!

8. Statement of the older Christian brother to me about praying for the lost.

9. THOUGHT QUESTION: Do we think that Christian wives who are truly concerned about their unbelieving husbands pray for them? Should they pray for them? OF COURSE THEY SHOULD!!

Read and study the record in I Peter 3:1-4.

f. Jesus taught His disciples to pray for evil men.

“Bless them that curse you, and pray for them that despitefully use you”-Luke 6:28.

1. Jesus practiced what He preached!

*“Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do”-
Luke 23:34.*

“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example that we should follow in his steps:

Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not: but committed himself unto him that judgeth righteously:

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

For ye were as sheep going astray, but now are returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls”-I Peter 2:21-25.

2. Remember what we’re dealing with here, brethren! We’re dealing with the issue of the Lord teaching us to PRAY FOR MEN WHO CURSE US AND DESPITEFULLY USE US-Luke 6:28.

3. When people say and do evil things towards us, how do we respond to them?

4. Do we respond by erupting like a volcano and spewing vile, filthy words upon them?

5. Do we try to give them double of what they gave us? I hope not!

6. Brethren, Christians are to be following the example of the Lord who did not return evil for evil!

“Who when he was reviled, reviled not again”-I Peter 2:23.

“Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do”- Luke 23:43.

“Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you”-Luke 6:28.

QUESTION: CHRISTIANS, IS THE LORD PLEASED WITH OUR CONDUCT TOWARDS EVIL MEN?

WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE FOLLOWING IN THE STEPS OF THE LORD, ARE WE?

III. CLOSE

“And being in agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground”-Luke 22:44.

Do you know what this verse is telling me by application? It's telling me that I have a lot of improvement to make in my prayers!

What about you? Do you need to make improvement too?