



Prayer 3

The teaching of Jesus on prayer

A Christian friend has a serious life-threatening illness:

- How should you pray for him or her?
- How might your praying change as time went on?
- What difference would it make to your praying if your friend wasn't a Christian?

How not to pray:

- *Hypocritically* (Mt.6:5-6)

What was wrong with the prayers of the hypocrites?

When are we most likely to pray hypocritically?

- *Verbosely* (Mt.6:7-8)

What was wrong with the prayers of the pagans?

Why should Christians be able to pray differently?

How we ought to pray:

- *Boldly, not tentatively* (Lk.11:5-10)

How did the man obtain bread from his friend?

Why did the friend refuse to respond straight away?

Do you think God is like the friend?

What are we to learn from this parable?

- **Trusting, not doubting** (Mt.7:9-12)

What do we learn here about the character of God?

What if the son had *asked* for a stone or a snake?

What does Jesus promise God will do when we pray?

**Bring to God situations
rather than solutions**

- **Persevering, not giving up** (Lk.18:1-8)

Why was the widow denied justice?

How did she finally obtain justice?

Do you think God is like this judge?

Is there ever a time when we *should* give up praying for something?

- **Expectant, not unexpectant**
(Jn.14:13-14; Jn.16:23-24)

What does it mean to ask “in Jesus’ name”?

What does Jesus promise to those who ask the father in his name?

Should Christians expect to receive everything they ask for in prayer?

“Every true prayer is a variation on the theme, ‘Thy will be done.’”

[John Stott]

The Lord’s Prayer (Mt.6:9-13)

Who is the Lord’s Prayer for?

What use should we make of the Lord’s prayer?

What priorities in prayer does the Lord’s Prayer teach us? (see also Mt.6:33)