

EGF-4: To Talk With God

EGF Group Bible Study 10-23-10

1. **How do we know that God will always answer our prayers in the best way?** Romans 8:32; Psalms 102:17
2. **How should we pray, especially in these solemn times?** 1 Peter 4:7; Luke 21:34-36
3. **What did the disciples want Jesus to teach them?** Luke 11:1

“Christ's disciples were much impressed by His prayers and by His habit of communion with God. One day after a short absence from their Lord, they found Him absorbed in supplication. Seeming unconscious of their presence, He continued praying aloud. The hearts of the disciples were deeply moved. As He ceased praying, they exclaimed, "Lord, teach us to pray." White, Christ's Object Lessons, p140.

4. **What did Jesus say should be included in our prayers?** Luke 11:2-4

“In order to strengthen our confidence in God, Christ teaches us to address Him by a new name, a name entwined with the dearest associations of the human heart. He gives us the privilege of calling the infinite God our Father. This name, spoken to Him and of Him, is a sign of our love and trust toward Him, and a pledge of His regard and relationship to us. Spoken when asking His favor or blessing, it is as music in His ears. That we might not think it presumption to call Him by this name, He has repeated it again and again. He desires us to become familiar with the appellation.” White, Christ's Object Lessons, p141.

“The Lord's Prayer was not intended to be repeated merely as a form, but it is an illustration of what our prayers should be--simple, earnest, and comprehensive. In a simple petition tell the Lord your needs and express gratitude for His mercies. Thus you invite Jesus as a welcome guest into your home and heart.” White, Child Guidance, p. 524.

5. **What principle did Jesus give for obtaining answers to prayer?** Luke 11:5-9

*“Christ's lessons in regard to prayer should be carefully considered. There is a divine science in prayer, and His illustration brings to view principles that all need to understand. He shows what is the true spirit of prayer, **He teaches the necessity of perseverance in presenting our requests to God**, and assures us of His willingness to hear and answer prayer.” White, Christ's Object Lessons, p142.*

6. Jesus taught us to pray to the Father. God as a father is a theme that runs through the entire Bible. He is the creator of all life, and the protector of His children. In the Old Testament, His list of names includes: “Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father” (Isaiah 9:6). He is powerful and omnipotent, yet He is also the all-sufficient provider. Taken together, He surely is the God of the universe

ruling from heaven, but we can still approach Him personally as our Father. **In whose name, or by whose authority, should we address the Father?** John 15:16; 1 Timothy 2:5

We pray in Jesus' name because He is our mediator and Savior. Through His merits we gain access to the very throne of the universe.

7. What time of day, especially, should we pray? Psalms 5:3; Psalms 55:16-17; Daniel 6:10

8. What kind of prayers should these daily prayers be? Matthew 6:5-8

“Learn to pray short and right to the point, asking for just what you need. Learn to pray aloud where only God can hear you. Do not offer make-believe prayers, but earnest, feeling petitions, expressing the hunger of the soul for the Bread of Life.” White, Our High Calling, p130.

9. Is there also a place for public prayer? Matthew 18:19-20; Acts 1:13-14

10. What attitude toward God are we to exhibit in our prayers? Psalms 95:6-7; Philippians 2:9-10

Prayer is not posture! However, we should show reverence by kneeling in awe and humility when possible.

11. What specific occasions did Jesus and the apostles pray? Acts 27:35

12. What is necessary on our part in order for our prayers to be taken seriously? Psalms 37:5; James 1:5-8

We must be committed to and trust God.

13. How can we have confidence that God will hear our prayers? 1 John 5:14; James 4:3; Romans 8:26-28

We must want God's will to be done. This is a matter of faith. If we really believe God's way is best, we will want His will to be done. The Bible reveals God's will to us.

14. What is a consequence of turning away from God's law? Proverbs 28:9

The greatest way to talk to God is not by words, but by our behavior. We must listen to God and obey Him. Why should we expect God to hear us, if we will not hear Him? And why should we expect Him to do what we ask, if we will not do what He asks?

15. Should we thank the Lord while praying? Philipians 4:6; Colossians 4:2

We should praise God and be thankful for His goodness.

16. What is the result of an unforgiving attitude? Mark 11:25-26

Is this God saying, *“I’ll make you a deal: You all forgive each other—no bitterness, no grudges, no more talking about the bad things you did to each other—and I’ll forgive you”*? No, that’s not what leads to our forgiveness. We’re not saved by the basis of our works. Instead, the gospel says that we are to come just as we are to God, and He will forgive us. God then says, *“Now that you’re forgiven, I expect you to forgive each other.”*

When you accept the forgiveness of God, His grace naturally follows. You must first have faith that God is going to help you forgive. *“Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy”* (Matthew 5:7). If we can’t forgive each other, God can’t forgive us, because our hearts are not open either to give or receive forgiveness. That’s serious, isn’t it? It’s going to require an act of grace—a miracle—for us to be able to do that.

“Keep your wants, your joys, your sorrows, your cares, and your fears before God. You cannot burden Him; you cannot weary Him. He who numbers the hairs of your head is not indifferent to the wants of His children. “The Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.” James 5:11. His heart of love is touched by our sorrows and even by our utterances of them. Take to Him everything that perplexes the mind. Nothing is too great for Him to bear, for He holds up worlds, He rules over all the affairs of the universe. Nothing that in any way concerns our peace is too small for Him to notice. There is no chapter in our experience too dark for Him to read; there is no perplexity too difficult for Him to unravel. No calamity can befall the least of His children, no anxiety harass the soul, no joy cheer, no sincere prayer escape the lips, of which our heavenly Father is unobservant, or in which He takes no immediate interest. “He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.” Psalm 147:3. The relations between God and each soul are as distinct and full as though there were not another soul upon the earth to share His watchcare, not another soul for whom He gave His beloved Son.” White, *Steps to Christ*, p.100.

God wants to talk with you. Are you willing to talk with Him?