

**Growing Spiritually: Praying for the Kingdom**  
**Luke 11:1-13**  
**Sermon Outline**

**Introduction:** We grow spiritually through the Means of Grace, the gifts God has given that he has designed for our growth. One of them is prayer. Knowing how hard prayer is to us, the Lord gives us reasons for keeping at it, three of which arise out of Luke 11: (i) We pray because Jesus did; (ii) We pray because there is a lot to pray about; (iii) We pray because the Father will answer us.

**I) We pray because Jesus did**

*v. 1: Now Jesus was praying in a certain place and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach s to pray.”*

Is it really an incentive to know that Jesus prayed?

Our children and friends will grow hungry to pray as they see us doing it.

**II) We pray because there is so much to pray about**

*v. 2: When you pray, say, “Father, hallowed be your name...”*

**A) Notice how comprehensive the prayer is**

1) It covers the personal necessities of life

- Bread
- Forgiveness
- Change

2) It runs deeper than the personal necessities of life

*Hallowed be your name*

3) It is broad as well as deep

*Your kingdom come*

**B) Our praying**

1) Personal and practical necessities—don’t leave anything out

2) Press past the personal and practical necessities

3) Pray deeply and broadly for the world

**III) Our Father will answer**

*v.11: What father among you...*

## Questions for Reflection this Week

- 1) The means of grace (FWPSM: Fellowship, the Word, Prayer, the Sacraments, and Mission) are like a well-balanced diet. We need a steady diet of all of them in order to grow spiritually. Spend a few moments analyzing your spiritual diet over the past month. Has it been adequate? Has it been balanced—with all the components represented? If not, what evidence can you detect of malnourishment?
- 2) One of the means of grace is prayer. Inventory your prayer life over the past week. How many minutes did you spend in prayer? What did you pray about? What made praying hard for you?
- 3) According to Luke 11:1, Jesus' prayer life motivated his disciples to ask about prayer. Respond to the following objection: "The fact that Jesus prayed a lot is not incentive to me: after all, he was the Son of God and praying came naturally to him."
- 4) Reflect on what you are teaching your friends and/or children by your prayer life. What one thing might you change?
- 5) Read Luke 11:2-4. List the petitions and describe the different sorts of things they cover. Which of the range of matters covered in this prayer are you more apt to cover when you pray? Which do you tend to leave out? Why? What do you plan to do to pray this prayer more fully?
- 6) Reflect on the following statement: "When my friends or children are in hardship and I pray no more than, 'Lord, remove this hardship,' I short-change them by limiting God's agenda to short-term fixes. I must pray more deeply and broadly: 'Lord, use this hardship 'hallow your name'—show them who you are more vividly, increase their faith, increase their patience, nobility and love. And, Lord, use what is happening to them and how they deal with it, to make you more of an issue in those who see and interact with them.'"
- 7) Jesus prayer for the kingdom to come would have immediately brought Psalm 2 (as well as other passages) to his disciples' minds. Read Psalm 2 and imagine what our world will be like when it is fulfilled, with Jesus in the role of the Son. Pray for signs of that reign in your workplace, school, or apartment building.
- 8) Why, according to Luke 11:11-13, can we pray with hope for the things listed in the Lord's Prayer? Why does Jesus mention the Holy Spirit in vs. 13? What does the Holy Spirit have to do with the coming of the kingdom of God to earth? Spend time praying for the Holy Spirit to work in your life and in our world.