



Pt 2: **Through Open Communication**

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## Connecting with God - *“Getting to know God in a meaningful and life changing way.”*

**Luke 11:9-10** (nkjv)

God’s existence is proven by the fact that He answers our prayers! Everything we receive from God will only become ours as we ask.

The instinct to pray is something which God has built into all of us. But are we really satisfied with the effectiveness of our prayer life?

### **...What is Prayer?**

Prayer is simply talking things over with God – having a normal conversation with Him.

**Psalms 116:1-2** (nlt) *I love the Lord because He hears and answers my prayers. Because He bends down and listens, I will pray as long as I have breath!*

Spending time in God’s presence conversing with one another is how we get to know our all-wise, all-powerful and all-loving Heavenly Father.

If praying is so easy, why then do we find it so difficult to pray on a regular basis? What does it take to have an effective and satisfying prayer life?

**Luke 11:1** (nkjv)

The disciples saw a connection between Jesus and His Father.

A deeply spiritual connection that was born out of the conversations Jesus had with God as He pulled Himself aside to pray in quietness.

The disciples identified that these spiritual conversations had an effect on reality. A power seemed to be produced out of these spiritual conversations.

So they asked to Jesus, *“Lord, teach us to pray.”*

Jesus instructs them how to pray, the way that He prays to Father God.

**Luke 11:2-4** (nkjv) *So He said to them, “When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven,*

Jesus says to pray in such a way that really matters and causes change in us and the world around us has to begin with a relationship with God as its core.

How many of us only come to God to see what we can get from Him. Rather than coming to God through the value of knowing Him!

Prayer is suppose to be a spiritual intimate conversation within the most intimate relationship of our lives with God as our Father.

***...Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your Name.***

The word *Hallowed* literally means 'holy.' God is a holy God.

If we try to ignore the implications of the holiness of God in our lives we will not experience the power of God's presence and the satisfaction of an effective prayer life that changes us and the world around us.

***...Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.***

This is about realignment with God's intention, purpose and mission. If we want to pray in a way that is effective we have to be willing to align our lives and prayers with what God desires and will is.

***... Give us day by day our daily bread.***

Jesus is highlighting here that we need to live in total dependence on God down to supplying what we need even on a daily basis.

Jesus didn't seek God for what He could get from Him but for who He was and daily provision was the result of the connection made through spiritual conversation known as prayer.

***... And forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us.***

Forgiveness is not an emotion; it is a decision of the will!

Forgiveness is not an occasional act; it is a permanent attitude!

**Psalms 139:23-24** (niv) *Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

**Matthew 18:21** (niv) *Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"*

Every day we are candidates to be wronged against. The issue is '**not**' whether we get hurt or wounded! The issue is – '**ARE**' we going to forgive them?

Peter was stunned by Jesus' reply.

**Matthew 18:22** (nkjv) *Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.*

Jesus was hoping Peter (*and now us*) would develop a habit of forgiveness.

It is not sufficient that we only ask God to forgive us.  
We must also forgive others as often as we want to be forgiven.

***...And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.***

Jesus was instructing them to watch and pray against falling to being tempted to doing wrong through their own carelessness or disobedience.

Jesus knows our weaknesses which is why He instructs us to pray, *“Lead us not into temptation.”*

We do not have to learn everything the hard way.

God desires for us to be aware of our weaknesses and to seek His strength to gain the victory over them instead of falling to them and suffering the consequences.

**Psalms 91:2-3** (nlt) *This I declare about the LORD: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; He is my God, and I trust Him. <sup>3</sup> For he will rescue you from every trap and protect you from deadly disease.*

## **Conclusion**

So why should we pray?

Because God invites us to and He desires to spend time with us!

When we talk with Him, He will hear us, save us and satisfy us in every way.

Getting to know God in a meaningful and life changing way ***‘is’*** born out of relating with Him through open communication.