

C H A P T E R



1. This is a very full chapter. Please, make sure you read it and listen to it several times. There is much to glean.
2. This chapter begins with the disciples listening to Jesus’s prayer. Think of the last time you listened to someone else pray. Was it the kind of prayer that made you want to be able to converse with God like they did?

I have a friend, Francene. When she prays, she is simply returning to a conversation with the Lord; nothing formal, but truly intimate. I learned much about talking to my heavenly Father from listening to this sweet sister. Do you have someone like this in your life?

3. Our prayers reveal a lot about what we think. They reveal what we are currently thinking about and what we are wishing would come to be. Think of some of your last prayers. Did they sound like adoration, confession, and thanksgiving or more like a Christmas wish list?
4. David Guzik notes on this section of scripture, *“Prayer is so simple that the smallest child can pray, but it is so great that the mightiest man of God cannot be said to truly have mastered prayer.”*

Read James 5:16, what is necessary for us to pray with power effectively?

James 5:16

Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

5. The disciples have been with Jesus for some time now. Many times, they have heard him pray and many times he has gone away to be on his own, with the Father.

This should be an example to us. There are times to pray in private and there are times we should spend time in prayer together. The disciples came to Jesus asking him to teach them to pray.

Looking at the prayer Jesus prayed, how would you label the parts?

What word would you use to describe each part of Jesus prayer	When you pray, say:
	“Father, hallowed be your name,
	Your kingdom come
	Give us each day our daily bread.
	Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.
	And lead us not into temptation.”

6. Jesus’s prayer was not one to be literally, repeated over and over. It was a pattern. What is the purpose of a pattern?

7. After Jesus teaching them a model prayer, he speaks to them about persevering in prayer. Think about one of the prayers you have consistently prayed for several years. How has that prayer changed?

More than likely, what you are asking God to do has changed a bit, and I would dare to say your heart has probably changed as well.

Several years ago, a friend was praying for her husband to be saved. Over and over, she prayed for him to come to know Christ. He was a difficult man. She and her children suffered greatly because of it. I recall praying with her one day and her prayer had changed. Her prayer no longer talked about how difficult this man was to live with and the damage he was causing. She spoke of the emotional and spiritual blinders covering his eyes. She spoke about the sorrow of seeing the years ticking by. She spoke of how strong a man he was and how he had worked hard all his life. She begged God to show him mercy and help him come to know the peace she had been given. It was not long before she and their children began to see his life transformed.

You see at first, she had wanted him saved so her life would be easier. Now, she wanted him saved so he would have peace with God. God was working in both of their hearts. Her persistence in prayer had changed her, her husband, and their family.

8. When you pray, what things do you consider important enough to pray about?

Look back at the pattern Jesus gave, do you see only BIG things or were there some seemingly mundane and small things listed as well?

Does God want us to ask him for help in school to remember things we have learned so we get a good grade? Does God want us to pray about how we will spend our day off? Does he want us to pray about our meals?

Read Philippians 4:6 in the Amplified Bible translation.

Don't be anxious or worried about anything, but in everything [every circumstance and situation] by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, continue to make your [specific] requests known to God.

9. I never want to miss a Bible promise. If we only read Philippians 4:6, we would miss an amazing promise from God's word. Read Philippians 4:7. What does God promise us in his word when we take our requests to Him with the calm assurance that he hears us?

I could go on and on with this verse. However, let me just ask one more thing.

Why do we need a guard over our heart?

What does the enemy want to do when we are seeking God in this way?

Philippians 4:7 Amplified Bible Translation

And God's peace [shall be yours, that tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and being content with its earthly lot of whatever sort that is, that peace] which transcends all understanding shall garrison and mount guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

10. After all you have seen concerning prayer, are you leading others (your children, grandchildren, friends) to a deeper and more meaningful prayer life?

11. Are you praying with confidence?
If we are not praying with confidence, what are we really saying about our God?

Praying with confidence takes trust. My friend Rene' has often reminded me, God has never failed us in the past, there is no reason to believe he will start now.

12. Luke 11:9 contains the words: ask, seek, and knock.

These are all verbs and are all in the present imperative active voice. The present imperative active voice indicates a command to do something in the future which involves continuous or repeated action. So, when we read this verse, it is giving the command to, ask, ask, and keep on asking, to seek, seek, and keep on seeking, and to knock, knock, and keep on knocking.
Now, do you feel differently about a prayer you repeatedly talk to God about?

13. Our God is faithful. He gives good gifts. Every day the challenges of life increase. Why not ask God to fill you with a fresh anointing of his Spirit, so that he permeates those inner most parts?

14. In Luke 11:14-28, we see Jesus answer these hostile men and their accusations.
What did they accuse Jesus of doing?

15. Have you ever been doing something that was good only to be terribly misunderstood, even criticized?
Was it hard to remain calm?
What did you want to do?

Just because we are mistreated or misunderstood is no excuse to throw in the towel and stop. As a follower of Christ, we perform for an audience of one.

16. What did Jesus say to assure them?

Did their logic even make sense?

17. Notice the important fact that begins verse 17. According to this verse, what does Jesus know?

18. There were constantly those who were looking for ways to criticize Jesus. Read verses 19-20.
What did Jesus say that should have brought an end to this discussion?

19. Once again, Jesus uses logic to reason with these men. Look at verses 21-23, picture this. A strong man, fully armed, is confident that he is guarding his house and his family. He believes all is well. Until a thief comes, who is bigger, and he overpowers the man. Then what will happen?

You see it does not matter how powerful Satan is, Jesus is more powerful, and he will triumph over him.

Read Revelation 20:10

What is Satan's fate?

Revelation 20:10

And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

20. It is not enough to rid a person of an evil spirit; that is just reform. We must help them see their need for repentance. Believers can be of great help to one who desires a new life, in Christ.
This is a crucial period.
They are ready to abandon their old life. We must seize the moment and introduce them to Christ.
See verses 24-26. If they do not fill their heart with the things of God what did Jesus say could happen?
21. We see people today who want to elevate Mary, the mother of Jesus. That is exactly what is happening in verse 27. Jesus did not argue, Mary was a good woman to be chosen to bear and raise the Savior of the world.
What did Jesus say was more important than all of that?
22. Everywhere Jesus went, crowds gathered. Why did Jesus say they came? What were they seeking?
Was it to hear truth and gain understanding or something else?
23. What was the only sign that would be given?
Read verses 29-32.
24. What is the contrast between those Jesus mentioned in Luke 11:28 and those in verse 29?
25. Jesus uses an illustration of a lamp, in verse 33. It is set up on a stand to give light to the room.
Who is the lamp?
Who is the stand?
26. In verses 34-36, Jesus is talking about the eye. If our eye is healthy, how well can we see?
27. Sin is deceptive. Satan tries to make us believe our little sin isn't hurting anyone.
Perhaps, it is just a little bit of selfishness, or jealousy.
Perhaps, there is a bit of pride. We can call it self-confidence, but it makes those around us feel "less than."
Whatever the sin is, it will separate us from the intimate life we long to have with Jesus.
Look at verse 35 again. The purpose of this light is not just to shine for others but for us to examine our own heart. This verse could be translated, take a good look at yourself. Weeds are easiest to pull when they are young and have shallow roots. Are there some weeds God speaking to you about today?
28. After reading this section, do you see why it is important to pray each time you sit down to study God's word?

If we ask God to open our eyes to his wondrous truth, he will. Why not stop for a moment and thank Him for his faithfulness to enlighten us with truth so that we can obey and live pleasing to Him.
29. When Jesus finished speaking, Luke tells us he was invited to the home of a Pharisee.
Why do you suppose a Pharisee wanted Jesus to come to his home?

Have the Pharisees been Jesus' supporters?

30. Of all the things this Pharisee could discuss with Jesus, what was he concerned about

My Mom called this “nit-picking.” It describes the action of giving too much attention to unimportant details.

Do you think he really wanted to know why, or did he simply feel a bit spiritually superior by his close attention to every detail?

31. Jesus knew where this question was coming from, it was out of a heart of pretentious pride. Where does Jesus turn the attention to help him see a greater need?
32. By far, the Pharisees were much more concerned about looking spiritual than actually being right with God.
The outside of the cup refers to what others _____.
The inside of the cup refers to what _____ sees.
33. Let’s take a few minutes to look at verses 42-48. Jesus declares several “woes” over those listening. Read the woes listed below and the moral principle neglected. What is the problem?

Do any of these strike a chord in your heart?

34. Let’s not live like the Pharisees refusing to look into their own hearts. Our God is good, and he is faithful to his word. Fill in the chart by identifying the problem.
Read 1 John 1:9 *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Woe	The problem	Neglected moral principle underlying the law
You are meticulous in the small things that people see but neglect truly loving God.		“Love the Lord with all your heart...” Deuteronomy 6:5
You love being treated with respect and importance, but you don’t lead in righteousness		“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.” Proverbs 1:7
You have a pretense of holiness.		“He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” Micah 6:8
You put on a pretense of loving and honoring those who had truly brought a word from God.		“Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not disregard it. Blessed are those who listen to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway. For those who find me find life and receive favor from the LORD.” Proverbs 8:33-35
You are quick to lay heavy burdens of “works” on others but will not trouble yourself to help them.		“... present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.” Romans 12:1

35. Write out a prayer to your heavenly Father.

If this is something you want to look into further, pick up a copy of Craig Groeschel's book *Soul Detox: Clean Living in a Contaminated World*.

36. As you look back over this chapter and all we have seen, which section of scripture spoke to you the most?
How will you respond in obedience to all God has revealed to you this week?

37. Our pastor reminded us this week that, "Asking for help is never a sign of weakness, it is a sign of wisdom."
Are there areas of your life you feel you need some help?
Why not take a few minutes to talk to your small group leader or a friend who is strong in their faith.
There are few things as valuable as a strong Christian friend.

Don't forget to be one for someone else. That is how we help the body grow stronger.

