

Foundations — My Life In Christ's Service — Unit 4

MLICS — 4.1

Prayer

I. **Introduction:** Jesus accomplished many things in His life short life on earth. A great library full of books couldn't tell all the stories. He served His Father in all, and prayer was His lifeline to fruitfulness. (John 11:25)

Jn 5:19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.

A. **Jesus came to _____.**

1. Mk 10:45 "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."
2. diakoneo — to minister, to relieve, assist, or supply with the necessities of life, provide the means of living,

B. You can't effectively serve without _____ prayer! Jesus ...

1. Knows who He is — "... Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business? ..." Lk 2:49-52
2. Overcomes temptation — "... "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'..." Lk 4:1-12
3. Stays tuned in with His Father — Luke 5:16 "So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed." (Jn 5:19; Jn 8:29)
4. To His disciples, Jesus has a mysterious source of strength — "... Lk 11:1-4 ... "When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name..."
5. Finishes what He began — Lk 22:41-42 "... "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."

II. **Prayer Isn't:**

- A. Saying your request more often — Matt. 6:7 And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.
- B. Saying your request perfectly or being better than someone else — Lk 18:9-14 "... "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ... 'God I thank Thee I am not like other men' ... 'God be merciful to me a sinner' ..."

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C. Pressing God to act against His own desires — 1John 5:14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

III. **Prayer is a _____ with God:** Luke 11:1 Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."

A. **Critical Areas** of healthy prayer:

B. We are asking —

1. Follow the Leader: Luke 11:2 So He said to them, "When you pray, say:
2. God is our: "... Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name." — Righteousness; Sanctifier; Peace; Door; Bread; ...
3. God can be trusted: Luke 11:3 Give us day by day our daily bread.
4. God is present in all: Luke 11:4 "And forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

C. We are asking, seeking, knocking — Lk 11:5-10

1. Luke 11:5 "... 'Friend, lend me three loaves; 6 for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; ... 6 "... I have nothing to set before him ..." 7 "...do not trouble me ..."
2. Lk 11:8 I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs.

IV. **Pertinent Question:**

- A. Am I Listening?
- B. Am I willing, wanting, desiring to commune with God ... in all areas of my life?
- C. Would you like a more vibrant prayer?