

The Gospel of Luke

A Pattern of Prayer

Luke 11:1-4

1. **How We Relate to God: Father** (Luke 11:2a; Matt 6:9a)
Jesus' repeated insistence that God was His personal Father was the source of much tension with the religious leaders. Only Christians have God as our Father (John 8:42ff), and because of this, we are able to address the only holy God in an intimate and personal way.
2. **How We Approach God: Hallowed Be Your Name** (Luke 11:2a; Matt 6:9b)
We must never mistake intimacy with God as an excuse for jovial casualness; God is holy and is to be regarded with holy reverence (cf. Num 20:12). True and pure worship will always magnify God's holiness (Rev 4:8).
3. **How We Hope in God: Your Kingdom Come** (Luke 11:2b; Matt 6:10)
We must pray that God's ultimate purposes would be fulfilled as He has planned and promised, and that is pictured as the kingdom of God coming among men (Isa 61:1ff; Luke 4:18). Jesus gave the people a preview of the kingdom that they ultimately rejected (Luke 10:9, 11), but He will establish His kingdom and forever rule and reign. Herein lies the hope of the Christian: the consummation of God's eternal plan.
4. **How We Trust in God: Give Us Our Daily Bread** (Luke 11:3; Matt 6:11)
Man does not live on bread alone (Deut 8:3), but by God's good design man does need food to survive. With the knowledge that God ultimately provides everything that we have regardless of how we obtain it (Deut 6:10-12), and while it is good to work hard and be wise in this regard (2 Thess 3:10), we must trust God to provide for us what we need (Luke 12:22ff).
5. **How We Depend Upon God: Forgive Us Our Sins** (Luke 11:4a; Matt 6:12)
How truly blessed is the Christian, now, who understands what this means more perfectly than even the disciples did when Jesus taught them to pray. As Christians we know that the reason Jesus came was to forgive us of our sins (1 Tim 1:15 cf. 1 Cor 6:11). And it is the blessed promise of God that He will forgive us when we confess our sins to Him (1 John 1:9; 2:1).
6. **How We Shelter in God: Lead Us Not Into Temptation** (Luke 11:5b; Matt 6:13)
God does not tempt man to sin; we are tempted when the desire for sinful things which is already inside of us is awakened (James 1:13ff). To ask God to not lead us into temptation is a commitment to follow where He leads knowing that we find in Him is the only safeguard against temptation and sin (1 Cor 10:13).