

## ***With Christ in the School of Prayer***

So he is able always to save those who come to God through him because he always lives, asking God to help them. Heb 7:25 (NCV)

We often talk about being more Christ like. But we think of his life on earth and not his current full time ministry of going to God on our behalf. The more we live in him and become like him, the more we will be in prayer as He continually prays for men. It is easy to have the idea that prayer is one of the ingredients of the Christian life like a regular fill up of gas in our car. “But when we learn to regard it as the highest part of the work entrusted to us -the root and strength of all other work – we will see that there is nothing we need to study and practice more than the art of praying.”

Many people complain that they do not have the power to pray in faith an effective prayer that gets results. That is what this class is for. Jesus desires to teach us, in fact He longs to teach how to pray in this life changing way. The Word calls us a royal priesthood. Priests are intercessors that go to God for men and make requests for them. We should expect that the High Priest Jesus, who lives within us, will help us learn to join him, guaranteeing the results of our prayer life.

### **The Only Teacher (Lk 11:1)**

The disciples had to recognize this connection between Christ’s secret prayer life and his public ministry, and so they made this request: “Teach us to pray”. There must have been a confidence and an understanding which they had not observed in the prayers of the religious leaders of their day. So they sought this understanding from Master. I think if we saw him pray we would say with them, “Lord, teach us to pray.” If our eyes could only be opened to that heavenly place where He intercedes for you right now. We would long for Him to transform us into his likeness. Here is where the journey begins, “Lord teach us to pray.” If you really mean that He will certainly meet the desire He placed in your heart and become your Teacher in the school of prayer.

Prayer is so simple a child can do it wonderfully, but at the same time it is the holiest, loftiest work we could hope to do. Prayer is to communicate with the Unseen and Most Holy One. Get a vision of that from Is 6. In prayer is the channel of all blessings, the very essence of faith. Here is where we access the power of God. Promises wait here to be answered, the Kingdom to come, and the Glory of God awaits its full revelation. Where are the praying men of God who cry, “Thy kingdom come”?

It is easy to fall into a formula that has no power, and power is what we need. Too much of what we think we think of prayer is not based on Christ’s teaching. We repeat phrases and formulas to sound correct. But school is now in session and it daily begins with the heart cry, “Lord, teach us to pray”.

We read in the Old Testament, the training ground, how men prayed and You moved mightily. How much more now when the full revelation has come, should we expect

You to reveal yourself in answer to prayer. We read of the promises to the apostles and how You mightily fulfilled them as they prayed. You, Lord, are no respecter of persons. It can be true for us today. Teach us to pray with power, so that your work is done, and your Kingdom can come. We offer ourselves as learners. Teach us to pray.

Why is such a simple work so difficult? Sin has darkened our minds. When we read the promises we throw in so much that is not there, and take away what we do not have the faith to believe. In the spiritual things we do not always seek that which is MOST important. In the physical we don't step into the wonderful liberty of a son of the king and just ask and receive. Even when we do, we must learn the heavenly conditions. It must be to the glory of God, in full surrender to His will, in full assurance of faith, in the Name of Jesus, and with a perseverance that, if need be, refuses to be denied. These can only be learned as we are consistent in a regular time of prayer. This is where we are instructed on the practice field in this school of prayer.

It is in this struggle of inadequacy and doubt, aware of our ignorance and unworthiness, that we learn this heavenly art. But don't fear we have the very best teacher. One who constantly practices this art in perfection. He is patient and gentle and willing to be your instructor. Let that knowledge under gird all your efforts and let your teachableness come from faith in Him as the perfect teacher. We will learn to pray in power. We can depend on Him teaching us to pray!

'He knows how to teach, whether it is by the urgency of felt need, by the confidence that joy inspires, by the studying of the Word, or by the testimony of another believer who knows what it is to have prayer heard...by showing us the sin that hinders prayer, or by giving us the assurance that we please God. He teaches us by giving not only thoughts of what to ask or how to ask, but by breathing into us the very spirit of prayer and living within us as the Great Intercessor. We can most joyfully say, "Who teaches like him?"

This is not just a class. It is a challenge to become a rare person, treasured to God because of your influence in Heaven. It can't be done an hour on Sunday mornings. It will take time in meditation, time in prayer, time at the throne of God to learn from Him. Want to enroll?

Lord, the disciples call You Teacher, so we come to You as Teacher. We realize we have much to unlearn and much growth needs to take place, but that You are eager to begin this work in us. Take away our complacency and replace it with burning desire to meet with You. Break our hearts with the knowledge of how you long to hear our voice and meet with us. Keep on our hearts the desire You have for us to stop and give our attention to You, so that You can do in us what we are praying.

We come with one overarching request, teach us to pray. Help us to tune out the distractions that try to claim our attention and our time, and be silent before You. Here let us begin a journey into understanding and experiencing prayer. We trust the destination is beyond our wildest dreams, because You do always so much more than we can ask or imagine. Grant us a determined consistency. In Jesus mighty name we pray.