

When the disciples asked, “Lord, teach us to pray”, they not only went to the right instructor, they also went with the right intent. This was more than a “how-to” request; it was a “give-us-the-desire-to-pray” petition. After noticing the pattern of prayer in Jesus’ life, they longed to see it replicated in their own lives. They saw Him slip out of the house to pray in the early morning, while they rolled over for a little more sleep. They watched Him pause to thank His Father at various times and draw attention to the bigger picture (John 11:41–42).

Jesus graciously encouraged them with the words, “When you pray.” Not “if you pray” but “when you pray”—Jesus expected the disciples to pray. Driven by circumstances or as a spiritual discipline, He knew His own would turn to the Father in prayer.

They needed that expectation as much as we do. Our failure to pray rarely rises from lack of technique or subject matter. Often we fail at prayer simply because we don’t keep at it. We try to pray and quickly give up—yet prayer is the breathing of our spiritual life. Just as we can’t afford to stop pulling air into our lungs, so we also can’t survive spiritually without the healthy respirations of prayer.

By giving us a model, Jesus wasn’t inviting rote repetition; He was offering a healthy pattern. Just as He taught His disciples, so He is willing to teach us all things (John 14:26)—including how to pray.

Give your prayer life a realistic check-up (or autopsy). What’s the status?

What would a significant step forward in the spiritual discipline of prayer look like in your life?

What is one thing that would have to change in order to make prayer a higher priority?

Invite Jesus to teach you to pray.

January 8, 2016
The Lord’s Prayer
The Purpose of Prayer
Pastor Rick Rufenacht



Prayer is...

The Act of [trusting the creator](#)

I Peter 5:7

The [vision](#) of the Believer

1 Cor 2:9-10

[Agreeing](#) with God

Rev 8:3 - 5 Eph 6:12 Daniel 10

Asking and receiving from God

Mr 11:24 James 4:2