

## ***Eleutheros Newsletter***

December 2018

### **News of Interest**

A Spanish translation of The Ramifications of Our Salvation is complete. Funds are needed to have it printed in Argentina and distributed into the Spanish speaking world. If God leads you to make a donation to this cause, please access the website and go to “Eleutheros Books Global Fund”: [www.eleutherosbooks.com](http://www.eleutherosbooks.com)

God willing, a third course for the Eleutheros School of Theology will be complete and ready for market soon. This course will be on the Life of Christ.

It appears that Eleutheros Books will begin writing a fifth book entitled *19<sup>th</sup> Century Influences on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Christianity* sometime after New Year.

Eleutheros Books make great Christmas gifts! Check out the offerings at the website!

### ***The Prayer Life of Jesus***

*And it came to pass in those days, that He went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God ([Luke 6:12](#)).*

One question that comes to mind when we ponder the prayer life of Jesus is why He prayed at all.

To put it another way, why does God need to pray to God?

This is indeed a challenging question, and the Scriptures do not offer any explanation as to *why* Jesus prayed. They simply tell us that he did; so we are left to speculate on something like this.

Here are some plausible explanations:

1. Because He is the Son of God, He wanted to maintain a very close relationship with His Father. Notice that He refers to the Father in the prayers that are recorded in the Gospel accounts: Examples:

*Our Father, which art in heaven ([Matthew 6:9](#)).*

In His High Priestly prayer, He begins by saying, *Father, the hour is come: glorify Thy Son, that the Son may glorify Thee ([John 17:1](#); see also [17:5](#), [11](#), [14](#), [25](#)).* This prayer was offered just before Jesus gave His life for our sins. He was the sinless Son of God, yet He was (and still is) human as well. Even a quick reading of John 17 reveals that Jesus is praying *urgently* to the Father and on behalf of those who would believe in Him: *Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy Word is truth ([17:17](#)).*

2. In order to be the effective Teacher on prayer, He needed to pray in the presence of His beloved disciples. Examples:

When Jesus was about to feed the 5,000 men, He offered a prayer of thanksgiving in the presence of all the people and the disciples: *And Jesus took the loaves: and when He had given thanks, He distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise the fishes as much as they would* ([John 16:11](#)).

When Jesus administered the Last Supper, *He took the cup, and gave thanks* ([Luke 22:17](#)); and *He took bread, and gave thanks* ([Luke 22:19](#)).

Much of His teaching about prayer can be found in [Matthew 6](#) and [7](#):

A. Pray without hypocrisy! *And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men* ([6:5](#)).

B. Pray privately! *But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and pray to the Father which is in secret* ([6:6a](#)).

C. The Father rewards prayer! *And thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly* ([6:6b](#)).

D. Avoid empty praying! *But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking* ([6:7](#)).

E. Recognize that God knows your need even before you ask! *Be not ye therefore like them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of before ye ask Him* ([6:8](#)).

F. Pray directly to the Father! *After this manner, therefore, pray ye, Our Father which art in heaven* ([6:9a](#)).

G. Recognize God's holiness when we pray! *Hallowed be Thy name* ([6:9b](#)).

H. Recognize God's sovereignty when we pray! *Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven* ([6:10](#)).

I. Pray simply for our basic daily needs! *Give us this day our daily bread* ([6:11](#)).

J. Pray for forgiveness and be willing to forgive others! *And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors* ([6:12](#)).

K. Pray for deliverance from Satan and his attacks! *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil* ([6:13a](#)). "Evil" here is better translated "the evil one" and should be understood to mean the Devil.

L. Recognize that a willingness to forgive others will result in a good relationship with God, but an unwillingness to forgive others brings disastrous results! *For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your heavenly Father forgive your trespasses* ([6:14-15](#)).

M. Pray constantly and in expectation that God will answer! *Ask, and it shall be given you: seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that seeketh findeth: and to him that knocketh it shall be opened* ([7:7-8](#)). The imperatives “ask,” “seek,” and “knock” are all in the present tense in the Greek, indicating that the prayer should be continual. A good translation would be, “Keep on asking, keep on seeking, keep on knocking.”

Here are some facts about the prayer life of Jesus:

1. He often prayed alone: [Matthew 14:22-23](#); [Mark 6:46](#); [Luke 9:18](#).
2. He prayed for children: [Matthew 19:13](#).
3. He often prayed early in the morning: [Mark 1:35](#).
4. Sometimes He prayed all night: [Luke 6:12](#).
5. He prayed knowing the Father heard Him: [John 11:41-42](#).
6. He prayed while suffering on the cross, asking the Father why He was being forsaken ([Matthew 27:46](#); [Hebrews 5:7](#).)
7. He considered His Temple a house of prayer: [Matthew 21:13](#).

May God's people learn to pray as He did!

*And He spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not faint* ([Luke 18:1](#)).

### **Keep on Praying**

Frederick W. Vandersloot

*Keep on praying to God on high,  
Keep on praying, He answers your cry!  
God will answer the sincere heart;  
Keep on praying! He will do His part!*

*Keep on praying all through the strife;  
Prayer will purchase a crown of life:*

*Heav'n is ringing with songs above,  
Hallelujah for a Savior's love!*

*For Jesus hears you,  
He's list'ning to your plea,  
So keep on praying,  
And He will answer thee!*



Evangelistic work at a college football game!

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