

Restoring the Joy of Conversing with God - Joy in the presence of God!

Luke 11:1-13

11 One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

2 He said to them, "When you pray, say:

Relationship - "Father, (with a kind and compassionate Father)

Worship - hallowed be your name, (Who God is is in His name - Holy and set apart)

Actualization - your kingdom come (revealing completely who God is; eradicate all evil and showing all righteousness)

Grammatically, the sentences above structure with Two 2nd person singular structure. The next couple of sentences' structure is Two 1st person plural and an extra phrase.

Provider - 3 Give us each day our daily bread. (God is our provider)

Community - 4 Forgive us our sins,

for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. (Compassion and grace define our community)

Dependence - And lead us not into temptation.'" (The audience in the Jesus' time concern when they face persecution they will deny their relationship with God.)

How do we bring our requests to God's presence?

Bold and aggressive - 5 Then Jesus said to them, "Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; 6 a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.' 7 And suppose the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' 8 I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity[e] he will surely get up and give you as much as you need. (God wants us to come to him with boldness and aggressiveness when we present our request)

God's Offer - 9 "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

God will keep on answering and answering and answering

a. Ask - for something that God can provide; can you think of an example?

b. Seek – for what has been lost; can you think of an example?

c. Knock – on a door to gain admission to a closed opportunity; can you think of an example?

Have you tracked your conversation with God in the past?

a. It generates gratitude in our hearts

b. It inspires us to converse with God more

Relationship - 11 “Which of you fathers, if your son asks for [f] a fish, will give him a snake instead? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? 13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” (We can come to God like a child coming to the Father and the Father meets all the basic needs)

When we come to present our request to God, is it like a blank cheque? According to this passage, there are three boundary markers:

Boundary markers

- a. It must not dishonour God – “Hallowed be your name”
- b. It must not hinder His higher Kingdom purposes – “Your kingdom come”
- c. It must not deny our relationship with God – “Do not lead us into temptation”

How about when Jesus said that He would answer us as long as we ask in His name?

- a. It means to ask in a way that is consistent with Jesus’ character
- b. It means according to Jesus’ will
- c. It means to act with Jesus’ authority

Summary:

In God's presence, we can have joy because we can depend on and trust in God. He is our Heavenly Father who is Holy. We want Him to be glorified and we want to glorify Him. Our community is defined by God's grace and compassion towards us. We too extend His grace and compassion to others. When we come to God, we can come to God boldly with requests as long as we are aware of the boundary markers.