

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own under-
standing; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: Luke 11:1-4 “Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.’ So He said to them, “When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.”

Quote: “We have heard of many people who trusted God too little, but have you ever heard of anyone who trusted Him too much?” J. Hudson Taylor, Missionary

In response to a request by one of His disciples to teach them how to pray, Jesus gave to us a model prayer that begins by reminding Christians of our relationship to God and to each other— “*Our Father in heaven...*” We would do well to note that the disciple making this request drew attention to John the Baptist as a man of prayer who taught his students how to pray. What a testimony! Followers of Christ must be known as praying people just like their Savior! Imagine what it must have been like to hear the Son of God pray! My mind immediately thinks of Christ’s highly priestly prayer in John 17 and His agonizing prayers in Gethsemane and on Golgotha.¹

**Prayer—
Relationship**

At the feeding of the five thousand, Luke mentions *public and private* prayer offered up by Christ. He writes that Christ “took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the multitude.” Luke then states, And it happened, as He was alone praying, that His disciples joined Him, and He asked them, saying, ‘Who do the crowds say that I am?’” (9:16, 18) Mark 1:35 writes of *the priority and the privacy of prayer* that characterized Christ’s intimate fellowship with His Father. “Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.

In Matthew’s record of Christ’s model prayer, the issue of private prayer is also emphasized as well as the need for sincerity, humility and carefulness in wording our prayers. “And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.”²

Jesus began His instruction on prayer with the words, “Our Father in heaven.” All who are entrusting the welfare of their eternal souls to the safekeeping of Christ by placing faith in Who He is and what He accomplished, and by repenting of their sins are “children of God.” We share a relationship of intimacy with the Living God as evidenced through the ministry of His Spirit to our souls. Paul wrote, “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”³ Christ prayed, “*Our Father, give us, forgive us, lead us, deliver us...*” His words remind us to seek the welfare of the brethren as we “come boldly *to the throne of grace*, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”⁴ We are to love one another, edify one another, have compassion on one another, be truthful to one another and serve one another. God is our Father! We are family!

1 Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22 and Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, John 19 2 Matthew 6:5-7; 5:3, 8 3 Romans 8:14-18 4 Hebrews 4:16, ; 10:19,21-22; Ephesians 2:18; 3:12