

When Prayer Becomes Personal

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Luke 11:3-4.
- B. Prayer is the only channel to the power of God. (James 1)
- C. Prayer is essential.
- D. Prayer is the cry of a helpless child in need of a wholly adequate Father.
- E. Prayer is seeking after the satisfaction of God's heart.
- F. The prayer in Luke 11 is intended to be a guide to prayer, but in principle, it is a completely adequate prayer.
- G. God's interest and love for man involves every area of a man's life.

II. The needs of the body.

- A. We have such distorted concepts of prayer that we feel it is wrong to pray for our needs.
- B. God loves the body.
- C. Bread is a symbol for all our needs.
- D. One of the most flagrant forms of disobedience is mechanical prayer.
 - 1. We do not pray in order to inform God.
 - 2. Prayer is designed for us.

III. The needs of the soul.

- A. The central need is a need for a cleansed conscience—a sense of peace with God and man.
- B. Fear and guilt plague us. When we ask God to forgive us our sins, we recognize that there is no longer any condemnation in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:1)
- C. The condition of our daily forgiveness is forgiving others when we have become believers.
- D. If we refuse to forgive, then we refuse to give what has already been given us.

IV. The needs of the spirit.

- A. Temptation is necessary and no one escapes it.

B. Temptation can become an instrument to strengthen us and give us victory.

C. This is a prayer to be kept from unseen temptation—temptation that is seen can be recognized, but temptation that is not cannot be seen from which to flee.

Application questions:

1. How would you respond to someone arguing that asking God to supply for a person materially is wrong?

2. Have you ever experienced ineffective prayer because of a refusal to forgive someone else? Do you know anyone else who has experienced this? What is the story?

3. How can temptation be a positive thing? Into what kind of temptation are we to pray that we do not fall? Explain.
