LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY

Luke 11:1b

Prayer aligns our hearts with God's will so we can live out his purpose



Lord, Keep Me Close
[Proverbs 30:3-9]

Prayer Exposes Our Priorities

Big Idea: *Mature prayer isn't asking God for everything we want; it's trusting God to provide enough to remain faithful to Him.*

Biblical contentment is a settled confidence in God's goodness and provision that enables us to experience peace and gratitude in our present circumstances, whether we have much or little.

I. Prioritizing Character Over Comfort [30:7–8a]

Application Question: Before asking God to make your life easier, ask Him to make your heart more faithful.

II. Prioritizing Contentment Over More [30:8b]

Application: Instead of praying only, "God, give me more," try praying, "God, teach me to recognize Your provision, use what You have given me wisely, and trust You with what I still need."

III. Prioritizing Faithfulness Over Self-Sufficiency [30:9]

Application Question: Am I seeking God's kingdom first, or am I asking God to fit into the life I have already decided I want?

Reading, Question, Challenge, and Prayer

Reading: Read Proverbs 30:7–9, Matthew 6:11,33, and Philippians 4:11–13.

Question: What do your prayers reveal about what matters most to you? How can you learn to be content with what God provides?

Challenge: This week, ask God to help you prioritize a faithful heart over material things. Each day, thank Him for His provision, ask Him to meet your needs, and examine whether anything you have—or lack—is competing with Him for first place in your life.

Prayer: Every day this week pray for the Lord to give you a clean heart, a contented spirit, and a faithful life.

[Proverbs 30:1-4] The words of Agur son of Jakeh. The oracle [inspired saying]. The man declares, I am weary, O God; I am weary, O God, and worn out. 2 Surely I am too stupid to be a man. [Psalm 49:10] [H: baar -senseless- not a comment on intellectual capacity but on a willful resistance to revealed wisdom] I have not the understanding of a man. 3 I have not learned wisdom, nor have I knowledge of the Holy One. [Proverbs 9:10]

4 Who has ascended to heaven and come down? [John 3:13] Who has gathered the wind in his fists? [Isaiah 40:12, Job 38:4-11, Psalm 104:3-:6] Who has wrapped up the waters in a garment? [Job 26:8] Who has established all the ends of the earth? [Psalm 22:27] What is his name, and what is his son's name? Surely you know! [Revelation 19:12]

[John 3:13] No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

[Psalm 104:3-4] He lays the beams of his chambers on the waters; he makes the clouds his chariot; he rides on the wings of the wind; 4 he makes his messengers winds, his ministers a flaming fire.

[Job 26:8a] He binds up the waters in his thick clouds, . . .

[Psalm 22:27] All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.

[Revelation 19:12] His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself.

[Proverbs 30:5-9] Every word of God proves true; [Psalm 12:6, 18:30] He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. [Psalm 3:3] 6 Do not add to his words, lest he rebuke you and you be found a liar. [Deuteronomy 4:2, 12:32, Revelation 22:18]

7 Two things I ask of you [Lord]; deny them not to me before I die: [Genesis 45:28] 8 Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, [Job 23:12, Matthew 6:11, Luke 11:3] 9 lest I be full [Deuteronomy 8:12, 31:20, 32:15, Nehemiah 9:25, Proverbs 30:22] and deny you [Joshua 24:27] and say, "Who is the Lord?" [Exodus 5:2] or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God. [Job 21:14-15, Exodus 20:7]

[Ephesian 4:25] ... having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

[Philippians 4:11-12] Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned, in whatever situation I am, to be content. 12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.



"Lord, Keep Me Close"
Agur [Proverbs 30:3-9]
Discovering How Prayer Opens Our Eyes to the Gift of Contentedness

1. **What do our prayers reveal about our priorities? [Read Proverbs 30:3-9]**
   If you could ask God for anything right now, what would you ask for, and what might that reveal about your heart?
2. **Why does Agur begin by asking God to remove falsehood and lying?**
   What does this teach us about the importance of character and integrity in our relationship with God? (Proverbs 30:7–8a)
3. **How comfortable are you with asking God to examine your heart?**
   What attitudes, habits, or choices might you need to surrender to Him so that you can become more faithful?
4. **What does biblical contentment look like in everyday life?**
   How is being content with God's provision challenge you in your current priorities? (Proverbs 30:8; Philippians 4:11–13)
5. **Why can both abundance and financial hardship test our faith?**
   How might having more tempt us to forget God, or having less tempt us to compromise our convictions? (Proverbs 30:9)
6. **Jesus taught us to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread" (Matt. 6:11).**
   What would it look like for you to trust God for today's needs rather than becoming consumed by tomorrow's uncertainties?
7. **What is one area of your life where you need to pray, "Lord, keep me close"?**
   Is it your character, your finances, your attitude toward possessions, or your trust in God during difficult circumstances? What step can you take this week to grow in faithfulness?

Take Home Challenge

This week, pray Agur's prayer from Proverbs 30:7–9 each morning. Ask God for three things: **[1] A clean heart:** "Lord, reveal what needs to change in me and help me live with honesty and integrity." **[2] Daily provision:** "Lord, provide what I need today and teach me to be grateful for what I have." **[3] A faithful spirit:** "Lord, keep me from forgetting You when life goes well or compromising my convictions when life is difficult.

Each evening, reflect on this question:

Did I focus more on what I lacked or on trusting God with what He had provided?

Remember: *Contentment is trusting God to give us what we need without allowing what we have—or what we lack—to take His place in our lives.*