



Habits: Prayer
Luke 11:1-4
3 of 5

"Lord, teach us to pray!" So spoke the disciples to Jesus. In making this request, they confessed that they were not able to pray on their own, that they had to learn to pray. The phrase "learning to pray" sounds strange to us. If the heart does not overflow and begin to pray by itself, we say, it will never "learn" to pray. But it is a dangerous error, surely very widespread among Christians, to think that the heart can pray by itself.

For then we confuse wishes, hopes, sighs, laments, rejoicings--all of which the heart can do by itself--with prayer. And we confuse earth and heaven, man and God. Prayer does not mean simply to pour out one's heart. It means rather to find the way to God and to speak with him, whether the heart is full or empty. No man can do that by himself. For that he needs Jesus Christ.

[James Burtneess, *Shaping The Future: The Ethics of Dietrich Bonhoeffer*, Christianity Today, Vol. 30, no. 9.]



daily Bible reading

August 31 , 2014



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The Daily Bible Reading for this week will challenge us to incorporate the spiritual habit of prayer into our lives.

- DAY ONE – Luke 11:1-13
- DAY TWO – Matthew 6:5-15
- DAY THREE – 2 Chronicles 7:11-16
- DAY FOUR – James 5:13-18
- DAY FIVE – Philippians 4:4-7

Memory Verse: *"This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed by your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'"* **Matthew 6:9-13**

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