

July 11

Prayer

Scripture Reading: Matthew 6:11-13

Each day when we wake up in the morning, there are so many thoughts as to how the day would be? What would people say? Will I be able to excel in what I do? What about the unsolved problems? And many such thoughts run over our mind. When we walk pleasing to God, there is no need to worry on such things.

Every morning when we wake up, we have to surrender our lives in the hands of God saying, "Please be with me in everything I do this day. Help me walk in the paths that please You, to do the works that please You and to speak the words that please You. Give me this day the bread and clothing required". Let's not be worried about tomorrow or the next year, but rather surrender "today" in the hands of God and pray for the provisions of the day to be met. We have to pray not just for the worldly needs but also for our spiritual needs. The 12th verse teaches us regarding that. What are the spiritual needs?

1. Our forgiveness: it is very much required that our sins be forgiven. Therefore, let's pray that all our known and unknown sins be forgiven.

2. We have to forgive others: It is a hard thing to forgive others. This affects our spiritual life. Anger, vengeance and envy bring in us such an unforgiving attitude. When we forgive others, there is peace and joy in our hearts. When we forgive others, we express the forgiveness we've received from God. Therefore, we have to pray for the grace to forgive others. When I refused to forgive a person who spoke against me, God spoke to me saying, "I forgave all your sins, but you are not able to forgive even a small thing". I immediately repented and sought for God's forgiveness and spoke to the person with love. That is what God desires.

3. To be delivered from temptations: Each day we face a lot of temptations. We are tempted to murmur, steal, lie, disobey, etc. Let's pray that God will strengthen us to live a life that pleases Him. Pray that God's wisdom should be revealed in your words and deeds.

4. To be delivered from evil: Let's pray and receive grace to abhor all form of evil and live with God.

5. Praising: We have to praise His royalty by telling "Thine is the kingdom, power and the glory". We have to reflect upon the mighty deeds of God in our life and praise Him. Just as the angels in heaven praise Him, we have to praise and Glorify Him.

Questions:

1. Why should we pray?

2. Why should we forgive others?

3. What should our prayer be each day?