

Revised  
eBook  
Edition

# The Prayers of Jesus



Joseph F. Roberts, ThD, PhD  
International Missionary Baptist Ministries



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## Preface to Revised eBook Edition

For many years I have contemplated revising the work that I did for my original Doctor's degree from Florida Baptist College. After several false starts, here is the edition that should have been done a long time ago.

The Revised eBook Edition has undergone a number of changes from the original *Prayers of Christ*. For one, I have changed the name to the *Prayers of Jesus*. The reason for this change is because I refer to "Jesus" more often than to His title, "Christ."

Another major change is the change in "person" for the writing. When I wrote the original in 1986, the format was to write in the third person for formal writing. Since this was a dissertation, this was what was required for the work to be acceptable. While this may still be the case in some styles of writing in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, it remains a "stiff" format, not as easily readable as something written in the "first person." Therefore, I have revised it to the "first person."

The other major change has been in the footnotes. In 1986, the standard was "footnotes," references that would appear at the bottom of the page upon which the note was located. Now, the standard is leaning more to "endnotes" which appear at the end of a chapter.

I have also made it into an "eBook" rather than a book designed for printing. eBooks are now very popular because they can be used in a variety of devices and are less expensive than printed books.

Very little of the original content has been changed outside of the mentioned above. I trust that you, the reader, will enjoy this writing as much as I have in writing it originally and in the revision work.

To God be all the glory. I am merely the conduit.

Joseph F. Roberts, ThD, PhD

Director and Producer

International Missionary Baptist Ministries

<http://www.imbmpodcasts.com>

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## INTRODUCTION

What is prayer? What does prayer accomplish? Why is prayer important? Who should pray? How should one pray? Is there an example for prayer? If there is an example for prayer, who gave it and why should it be followed? Is prayer effective? If it is not effective, then why not? These are a few of the many questions that can be asked on the subject of prayer. While I do not claim to have all the answers concerning prayer, I do feel there is an excellent example that can be followed, i.e., the Man Christ Jesus. Jesus was a Man of prayer.

He not merely prayed and is now praying, He not merely teaches and influences us to pray, but He is prayer, the fountain and source of all prayer as well as the foundation and basis of all answers to our petitions.<sup>1</sup>

To establish the foundation upon which this writing is based, most of the presented questions need to be answered. Edward Poll answers the first question concerning prayer.

...looking up into the face of the Father is prayer. Prayer is not a mere matter of words, Jesus tells. It is not a matter of opening one's lips: it is a matter of opening one's heart. It is a matter of going to the Father and unbosoming oneself to Him: going with all that is (in) one's heart; going with the impulses or motives which prompt a loving, dutiful child to go to his earthly father; going under the impulse of gratitude to tell Him how thankful we are: going with our burden of sin to ask His forgiveness; going with our tangled problems to get Him to untangle them; going with empty hearts that He may fill them; going with broken hearts that He may heal them; going with yearning hearts –just to be with Him.<sup>2</sup>

Prayer is the most powerful weapon the child of God has in his God-given arsenal of Christian armor. I call prayer the polish to the armor of God found in Ephesians 6:18. Without prayer, the remainder of the weapons become useless. Without prayer, the soldier in the Lord's army becomes careless and sets himself up as an easy prey for Satan. This is why prayer is important. This is why God's children should pray.

The question is asked, "What does prayer accomplish?" To answer this question, I call your attention to James 5:16b-18.

(James 5:16b-18) ...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit. (KJV)

There are many more examples in the Scriptures, too many to even begin to mention, that illustrate what prayer can accomplish. I, personally, as well as many of God's children who have known Him for any length of time, have much personal experience that proves that prayer can accomplish much. Jesus is a prime example as to what prayer can accomplish. The seventeenth chapter of John reveals

Jesus' accomplishments through prayer. The Lord's church of today is what it is largely because of the Lord's prayer.

Prayer cannot accomplish anything unless it is done right.

The trouble with us is that we want to be exceptions to God's rule. We know that we must harmonize with God's will as roses do and as stars do, but we don't want to be compelled to harmonize in the way they do. We don't want to have to go to God and fall in with His wishes and plans, as they have to do: We want God to come down to us and fall in with our wishes and plans. This is the secret of most of our distressing failures in prayer...Most of us don't go to God to fall in with His wishes and plans; we go to persuade Him to fall in with our wishes and plans.<sup>3</sup>

What can prayer accomplish? If prayer is in the right form, in the will of God, and presented correctly, much can be accomplished.

(James 5:15-16) And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. (KJV)

To give an illustration of what he had just written, James continued on in verses seventeen and eighteen,

(James 5:17-18) Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit. (KJV)

We might wonder why James would pick such a person as Elijah to illustrate his meaning about prayer until we remember how this Old Testament prophet conducted himself after his bout with the prophets of Baal and the prophets of the groves. This seemingly invincible warrior of God, after such a stunning victory over those false prophets, took to his heels after a threat was leveled at him by Jezebel. His actions proved he was just a common man used greatly by the Lord. James writes if Elijah, being the common man he was, could pray mightily, then every other child of God has the potential of doing the same. We don't have to be great in other things in order to be able to be great in the matter of prayer. Every child of God has the capability of becoming a mighty prayer warrior for the Lord.

Why is prayer important? Prayer is the means by which we communicate with God. Many people often have the mistaken idea that we have to say

Prayer is an admission that we are not in control, and yet at the same time completely and confidently under God's control.

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audible words in order to pray. This isn't correct. We may never speak a word, but still pray. Prayer comes from within. Since true, sincere prayer comes from the heart, audible words need not be uttered. I remember as a child when I went forward to be saved during an invitation being extended at the end of a sermon preacher by my own dad. I don't remember the sermon or the invitational hymn. I never spoke a word after I expressed my desire to be saved. Others were praying for me and with me, but I never uttered an audible word. Even though not a word was spoken, the Lord knew the intense desire in my young heart was to be saved, and He answer that prayer and saved me. Many times since I have prayed and desired something concerning the Lord's work, or His children, without ever uttering an audible word. The Lord sees and understands the sub-conscious prayers of His children. Prayer is not from the voice box, but from the heart. A clear example of this situation is given in the Old Testament book of First Samuel. In the first chapter of the book, the account of Hannah, one of the two wives of a man named Elkanah is recorded. Although one of the wives had borne children to him, Hannah had not. God had shut her womb according to verses five and six of this same chapter. This so distress Hannah that she continually and constantly prayed for the Lord to permit her to bear Elkanah children. For many years the Lord saw fit not to grant her request. Finally, she became so burdened about the matter, she went on an extended fast. The following verses tell the story how this dedicated woman of God obtained the fulfillment of her prayers without verbalizing her request.

(1 Samuel 1:9-17) So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD. And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore. And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head. And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the LORD, that **Eli marked her mouth. Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken.** [*Emphasis mine, JFR*] And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee. And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD. Count not thine handmaid for a daughter of Belial: for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief have I spoken hitherto. Then Eli answered and said, Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of him. (KJV)

(1 Samuel 1:19-20) And they rose up in the morning early, and worshipped before the LORD, and returned, and came to their house to Ramah: and Elkanah knew Hannah his wife; and the LORD remembered her. Wherefore it came to pass, when



the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, Because I have asked him of the LORD. (KJV)

(1 Samuel 1:23-28) And Elkanah her husband said unto her, Do what seemeth thee good; tarry until thou have weaned him; only the LORD establish his word. So the woman abode, and gave her son suck until she weaned him. And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bullocks, and one ephah of flour, and a bottle of wine, and brought him unto the house of the LORD in Shiloh: and the child was young. And they slew a bullock, and brought the child to Eli. And she said, Oh my lord, as thy soul liveth, my lord, I am the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the LORD. For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him: Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD. And he worshipped the LORD there. (KJV)

Answered prayers aren't merely  
highly unlikely coincidences.  
They are fingerprints of a living,  
loving God.

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Many lessons may be drawn from the example of Hannah. Not only did she not have to pray audibly to have her prayer heard and answered, but she also was willing to wait until the Lord fulfilled her request. We should note also that she made a promise to the Lord and after the Lord fulfilled her request, she kept her promise. If you would investigate further, you will find the Lord did not stop blessing her with just Samuel. Because of her patience and faithfulness, He kept on blessing her. Verse twenty-one of chapter two reveals the Lord blessed her with three more sons and two daughters. The Lord answered Hannah's prayers in a mighty way.

The words of Jesus spoken hundreds of years later truly applied in the case of Hannah.

(Luke 6:38) Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again. (KJV)

Two major points concerning Hannah and her prayers to the Lord stand out vividly. The first was she was consistent. The second was she was persistent.

In spite of all the years of seemingly unanswered prayers from the Lord, Hannah did not waver in her dedication to God. Many people of less dedication would have given up and stopped serving God with the attitude of why should they do anything since it is apparent that God does not care for them. No so with Hannah for she continued to be faithful and did not develop that kind of attitude.

Persistence is a necessary part of praying effectively. Whether God answers in twenty minutes or twenty years, we should never give up on Him.

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The second major point that stands out vividly is that she was persistent in her praying. Even though more will be said about this in a later chapter, it should be considered in the establishment of the basis of this writing. For years Hannah was persistent in her prayers to God. She may have become discouraged after years of not having her request answered but she never gave up. Time after time she prayed to God with the same petition. The Bible teaches God's children to be persistent in their prayer life. Just as in the case of Hannah, just because God does not answer after the first prayer does not mean that He is not going to answer that prayer at all. God knows when it is the proper time to fulfill the requests, if He is going to fulfill them. In the case of Hannah, she was able to grow mightily in the Lord because of the Lord's time-table in answering her prayers. This does not mean that we harass God with prayers to the point that He finally answers them just to put a stop to it. It does mean God may not answer some prayers because the petitioner fails to be persistent in presenting his petitions to Him. This reveals to Him that the petition is not important enough to continue with it. The matter of bearing children was so important to Hannah that she continued for years to present her request to God. We should not cease to pray for a certain matter just because an answer is not seen right away. Being persistent helps us to develop faithfulness to God. The following verses help illustrate the persistency that should be evident in every child of God.

(Luke 18:1-7) And he spake a parable unto them to this end, **that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;** [*Emphasis mine, JFR*] Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God,

Faithfulness is one of the key items in service to God. Hannah kept right on in spite of the circumstances. Had she not been consistent in her living and remained faithful to God, God would never have answered her prayers the way He did. Truly the following verse of Scripture applies not only in the case of Hannah but also to any servant of God.

(1 Corinthians 4:2) Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful. (KJV)

Never Let yesterday's seemingly unanswered prayers stop you from praying again today and tomorrow with just as much freedom and faith. What He'll give you today is the faith and patience to wait until the right time gets here.

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nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? (KJV)

Who should pray? Every child of God should be a warrior of prayer. Paul told the Thessalonians to “Pray without ceasing” in I Thessalonians 5:17. This did not mean they were to go around constantly mouthing prayers, but that they should always be in an attitude of prayer. Only God’s children are commanded to pray, for He is under no obligation to hear any prayer from any except His own, outside of the prayer for salvation. Does He hear the prayers of those who do not know Him as their Savior, I am not sure. There is a thought that He might hear the prayer of a person whom He knows will eventually be saved, but that is strictly up to Him. It is up to Him to decide whose prayers He will hear.

Who can truly worship God or do His will? Only a born-again child of God can worship Him and do His will. Jesus stated to the Samaritan woman that anyone who worshipped God must worship Him in spirit and in truth and it is impossible for a lost person to do that.

(John 4:23-24) But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. (KJV)

How should we pray? Jesus gave the example in the Model Prayer. Many want to call it the Lord’s Prayer but it is not; it is the Model Prayer. Jesus taught not only His disciples of that day but also everyone of His followers since then. Since Jesus gave the example, every child of God should follow it if he expects answer to his prayers. This will be discussed in detail in the chapter on the Model Prayer.

Is prayer effective? The answer to this question is a definite “Yes!” Many times, it is not effective but when it is not, it is the fault of the one who prays.

(James 4:3) Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. (KJV)

There are many other reasons why our prayers may not be effective. Some of these will be dealt with throughout this writing.

Jesus was, and is, the Ultimate in prayer. This is illustrated by the following quote.

...the utter selflessness that runs through...(the Garden Prayer...is hardly so wonderful as the loving harmony with the Father which pervades it...Here is prayer at its highest: beyond this the Master Himself could not go. And this is not all: it is not only the highest achievement in prayer, but it is the highest achievement of prayer. When prayer brings us into perfect harmony with the Father it has achieved

that beyond which it cannot go. No answer that praying men have received from the Father has ever gone beyond that.

This then is what prayer meant to Jesus...the unbosoming of oneself to one's heavenly Father.<sup>4</sup>

The prayers of Jesus covered every aspect His children might ever need covered. From the situation to the solution, Jesus taught and lived the example of effectual prayer.

Good words and works have no vitality and power without prayer. We may apparently walk in the path of Godliness and useful activity; and yet there may be little blessing on our word and little fruit from our labor. But if we meditate on God's Law day and night, we shall be like a tree planted by the river of water that bringeth forth his fruit in his season, his leaf also shall not wither, and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.<sup>5</sup>

Much could be said concerning prayer. I do not lay claim to having examined all the prayers of Jesus. John stated that not all of His works and words were reported and that would no doubt include many of Jesus' prayers.

How Jesus loved to pray in secret Himself! He had a habit of "raising up a great while before day" and going outdoors—to a mountainside or some other deserted place—to pray...Before major decisions...He would pray alone an entire night.<sup>6</sup>

Would that we as God's children pay more attention to the words and actions of our Master. Prayer would then be a wonderful and rewarding experience. I hope that you, the reader, will examine this writing with an open mind and heart as we examine "The Prayers of Jesus." May you find, as I did, the joy of having many prayers answered by the Father.

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- 1 Adolph Sophir, The Lord's Prayer (Harrisburg: The Christian Alliance Publishing Co., n.d.), pp. 1, 2.
  - 2 Edward Leigh Poll, What Did Jesus Really Teach About Prayer? (New York: Fleming H. Revell Co., 1921), p. 79.
  - 3 Ibid, p. 97.
  - 4 Ibid, p. 80.
  - 5 Ibid, p. 18.
  - 6 Catherine Marshall, Adventures in Prayer (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1975), p. 65.

Until an answer is final, keep asking in faith. And if the final answer is not what you'd hoped, trust God's Spirit to sustain you. He will provide exactly what is needed.

LIVING THE BATTLE PLAN DAY 3



## CHAPTER ONE

### THE BAPTISMAL PRAYER

(Luke 3:21-22) Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased. (KJV)

We might wonder why Jesus would pray on such an occasion as this. As we have already established, Jesus was a Man of Prayer. He did not face any crisis without first having prayed. It is not known exactly what transpired during the period of time in His life between the age of twelve and this particular event. That He already was in the habit of praying frequently cannot be doubted. This seems to be the first public prayer offered by Him; at least this is the first known record of any prayer by Him. For the last eighteen years of His life He had been growing up and maturing into a well-rounded human being. This is evident from the Scripture for Luke 2:52 reads, “And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.” The question might be asked, “How could Jesus increase in favor with God and man if He had not been a Man of Prayer?” Of course, it stands

to reason that if Jesus always did something in public, then He most certainly did the same in private. Thus, if Jesus began to pray at the beginning of His public ministry, then it stands to reason that He developed the habit of prayer early in His life. One cannot please God without having a mature prayer-life with Him.

(Galatians 3:11) But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. (KJV)

(Hebrews 11:6) But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. (KJV)

These two verses reveal to the Bible student that a child of God cannot expect to live for the Lord without exercising faith and that faith cannot come about without prayer. It has been stated before that prayer is communication with God. God wants to communicate with His children but unless His children pray to Him, there can be no communication. Prayer is only one side of the coin. Prayer must come from the child of God in order for God to communicate with that child. The child of God has to live by faith and that will be impossible to do unless that child of God develops a mature prayer life.

“How do I develop a mature prayer life?” you ask. The first and major way to begin the development of a mature prayer life is to get into the habit of praying. We must pray every day. Many of us go for many days without ever once going to the Father in prayer. Without prayer we will soon grow cold and indifferent. When we do that, we become backslidden and get away from the Father. We will become unthankful. We will no longer be responsive to the dealings of the Holy Spirit. We will soon develop habits that are unbecoming to a child of God. The list could grow quite long, the results of neglected prayer.

A mature prayer life means that we engraft I Thessalonians 5:17 into our very being. It means that we are constantly in the attitude of prayer so that we can pray “at the drop of a hat.” It means not just only praying when there are troubles and trials but also when everything seems to be going well. It means being constantly aware that He is present and able to understand and help. It means being able to communicate with Him without having to be verbal. It means walking hand-in-hand with Him.

It must be considered that Jesus was about to begin His public ministry which would last for only a short, burdensome time. Even though His public ministry was only to last for approximately three years, those years would be filled with burdens, problems, many miracles, much teaching, much distress, severe trials, extreme agony and yes, much prayer. Being part of the Trinity, Jesus knew very well what lay ahead of Him, and yet even knowing those things, He started with prayer. Jesus knew that He would be rejected by His own. He knew that He would die for mankind. He knew all these things and many more, and He chose to start with prayer. He, knowing all things, knew that His prayers would present examples for all His disciples for hundreds of years to come—examples until He chose to come again.

We might wonder why the Only-begotten Son of God, being part of the Trinity, would need to pray. Strictly speaking, He did not because He was God-Man. He was God incarnate in human flesh. At the same time, He was all Man. Man has the need of prayer in his life. He has not just the need but the desire to communicate to some deity during his life-span. Thus, Jesus prayed. He presented an excellent example for us to follow. In fact, He should be the only example that should be followed.

It seems from the text of this chapter that Jesus waited until all the other people John was baptizing were gone and then presented Himself to John. This is indicated in verse twenty-one, "...when all the people were baptized,..." That the people were there to witness the event is not indicated by the Scriptures. Whether they were or not is not pertinent to the question at hand. One of the reasons that Jesus was praying, I feel, was to present an example of prayer. If this example were not presented for those present, including John the Baptist, then it certainly was presented for all those who would follow Jesus later. Those followers would include those of us today who read the Scriptures and attempt to follow the pattern that Jesus present for all believers.

Jesus was at the cross-roads of His life. He knew which direction His life would take, but still He prayed. We do not always know which direction our lives will take. We may be setting out on a life of service for the Lord, but still not know exactly which direction that service will lead us. We may find ourselves going to the utter most parts of the earth or maybe just sitting right at home serving the Lord in some undramatic and seemingly insignificant way. Not every man is called by God to the ministry. Not every man or woman is capable of teaching. Not everyone is able to sing or to do many other things for the Lord, but the fact remains that everyone has faced, or will face, the cross-roads in life where a choice will be made, or maybe already made, of service to the Lord. Such a choice is a very important one; one that should not be made without much prayer.

(Romans 12:4-8) For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorted, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness. (KJV)

(1 Corinthians 12:14-25) For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more those

members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. (KJV)

These passages teach there are many aspects of the Lord's service and no two people will always have the same abilities. The point is, each child of God must spend time in prayer before he decides what type of service he will be performing for the Lord. (When I say "he" I also mean the "shes".) Some may not like this statement, but it is true nonetheless: we are to be full-time servants for the Lord regardless of what occupation we choose to follow. If Jesus started out His public ministry with prayer, then it certainly stands to reason that we, as children of God, should start out our lives for the Lord with much prayer. We will not only make this particular decision for the Lord, but also, we will face many difficult decisions along the road of life that should be prefaced with much prayer. We cannot make a rational decision without first having consulted the Lord in prayer about the matter. That may not make the decision any easier to make, but certainly we will be more inclined to make the right decision, if we are in harmony with what God's will is for our lives.

Prayer meant much to Jesus when decisions were being faced. If this was the case with Him, and it certainly was, then prayer should be of the utter-most importance to us.

We have previously indicated that the great crises of our Lord's ministry were accompanied by prayer. Do you never wonder what kind of prayer Jesus prayed between His thirty years' seclusion and the three years' of public ministry? This first mention of Him at prayer found Him facing the forty days and forty nights' fast in the wilderness among wild beasts and His encounter with "the roaring lion" with his subtle temptations to secure an empire bought without blood. Perhaps His prayer after the baptism was taken up with a plea for strength to face a dread ordeal. It might have been His act of "putting on the whole armor of God" for the conflict "in the evil day." This we do know, His prayer had an instant answer, for the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit came upon Him, and with the Spirit's empowerment, the benediction of His Father....<sup>1</sup>

Most certainly the question could be rightly asked, "What did Jesus pray on this occasion?" That is a question that cannot be completely answered. The reason is, we do not have a record of this prayer in God's Word. It is stated only that He prayed. The circumstances and conditions surrounding the occasion are given, but nothing else. As was stated in the quotation above, Jesus was facing a great crisis. He not only was facing the start of His public ministry but also, even much closer, were the forty days and nights to be spent in the wilderness. Did He indeed pray for strength to endure the ordeal that was facing Him? I believe that He did. Did He pray that He would be glorified at this time? If so, why would He pray for such a thing at this particular time? I believe that Jesus probably did pray for the Father to glorify Him at this time because to do so would be for God to



put His stamp of approval upon Jesus. We know, of course, that this indeed did happen. What immediately transpired is one of the few times that the Trinity came together at the same time. Verse twenty-two gives what happened.

(Luke 3:22) And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased. (KJV)

This was an answer to the prayer that Christ prayed. Seemingly from this, we can deduce that Jesus asked the Father to show to the people present that He was indeed the Son of God. What an introduction of Jesus, the Son of God, to the world for whom He was going to die!

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1 Hebert Lockyer, All the Prayers of the Bible (Grand Rapids: Zondervon Publishing House, 1978), p. 212.

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