

"The People's Prayer."
Psalm 130.
Ephesians 4:25-32 & 5:1-2.

"Lord, Teach Us To Pray," the disciples asked Jesus in Luke 11:1. They had actually prayed all their lives. They were Jews who attended synagogue and most importantly, The Holy Temple in Jerusalem. Yet the disciples desired The Saviour to teach them to pray as John The Baptist had taught his followers-a few of whom John sent forth to become Jesus first disciples. But why?

Jesus knew the reason the disciples requested this lesson from Him. The prayers they had learnt were very formal prayers the Rabbis had taught which often seemed repetitious and ritualistic. Therefore, the disciples believed their learned prayers were vain repetitions that Jesus soon warned against. They knew God loved them. But the disciples were certain the Lord did not regard their prayers as heartfelt. Their usual prayers were not spiritually fulfilling them to be the best people they could be. The disciples needed Prayerful Heart Surgery. And Jesus obliged.

The Beautiful "Lord's Prayer" then flowed from the Saviour's Heart and Voice. It graced the disciples' Ears and Hearts. Jesus taught the Prayer as a simple way for All of Us to Acknowledge God's Holiness, His Kingdom's Nearness, and Will For Our Lives. In turn, we needed to Reaffirm To God Our Everlasting Need for Repentance, Strength To Forgive, as well as Power To Live Each Day With Holiness. If We Ask, We will Receive, assured Jesus.

The "Lord's Prayer" by Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior, is "The People's Prayer" as well. It is The Most Holy Prayer Portrait in which All of Our Needs are echoed. It also teaches that daily communication with Our Heavenly Father can and should be

short and simple. We only need to Tell God We Love Him as well as Need His Loving Grace and Presence Always.

Jesus also taught this "People's Prayer" as one that advocates Eternal Love and Blessings by Each of Us Praying for "Daily Bread." This Bread, however, is Spiritual Food. And The Lord Provides it for All of Us Through Jesus, "The Bread of Life" and His Loving Wisdom.

Paul reminds us of ways We can Pray to Better Feed Each Other in today's Ephesians lesson. We must Pray To Rid Our Hearts of Jealousy, Resentment, and Anger. It Burdens and Hurts The Holy Spirit, God, and Savior. These iniquities prevent The Lord from Healing Us To Heal Ourselves and Each Other with His Love. We Thus Cannot Feed Each Other. Therefore, we must continue the Lord's Prayer as our own by Asking the Lord to Cleanse Our Hearts. We will then be more Loving and Merciful To Each Other.

Furthermore, James, The Savior's half brother, taught that we should Unite With Others-particularly Those With Whom We Have Had Poor Relations- Confess Our Sins One To Another, Forgive Each Other As well As Pray Together for One Another. This is another way for Us, God's People, To Bless Each Other with Daily Spiritual Bread. A Church History event proved James right.

Baron Zizendorf was a devout Lutheran German nobleman in the 1700's. He offered refuge and farming employment to the Moravians. They were German speaking members of the Unity of the Brethren Church from Austrian ruled Bohemia-Moravia-now the Czech Republic. Yet the Baron and the Moravians often feuded about theology. Nonetheless, both parties agreed they needed each other, equally valued God and Saviour's Commandment to Love One Another, and therefore prayed together everyday that they would put differences aside to plant

good crops, have a successful harvest, and provide abundant food for the community. And they did! That year's harvest proved one of the best in years as the community was bountifully fed! Praying to become United in Christ's Love is indeed another Daily Bread slice that nourishes. Truly, the Presently Divided World needs this Feeding Prayer more than ever.

Prayer for more Holiness should be another Daily Bread pursuit. John Wesley, Methodism's founder in England, said this could be accomplished by Praying Bible Verses Back to God in a closet or small darkened room. Many of us do. And we are assured The Holy Spirit has enlightened us with more Holy Scriptural Wisdom when We Feel More Love in Our Hearts.

The Lord's Prayer is indeed a "Feeding" Prayer. That is another Sacred Reason it is also The People's Prayer. Jesus desires for us to Pray for Ways to Feed Each Other in God's Love By Imitating Jesus Christ in all we do. It Brings The Kingdom of Heaven closer on Earth. The World can thus become More Loving. Let us Therefore Keep Feeding and Nourishing.

Amen.