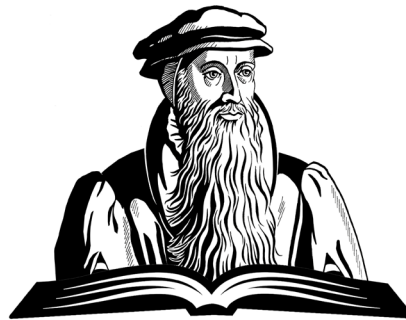


STUDY GUIDE
for
The Lord's Prayer

A VIDEO LECTURE SERIES

by Rev. Gerald Procee

Lecture #13
Difficulties in Prayer



The John Knox Institute
of Higher Education

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Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version.

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Rev. Gerald Procee (1953–2024) was a minister of the Gospel, who faithfully served the congregations of Opperdoes, Hamilton, Middelharnis, and Dundas.

STUDY GUIDE FOR

The Lord's Prayer

14 Lectures

by Rev. Gerald Procee

1. Introduction: Biblical Foundation and Course Outline
2. Our Father Which Art in Heaven
3. Hallowed Be Thy Name
4. Thy Kingdom Come
5. Thy Will Be Done in Earth as it is in Heaven
6. Give us This Day Our Daily Bread
7. Forgive us Our Debts, As We Forgive Our Debtors
8. Lead Us Not into Temptation, but Deliver Us from Evil
9. For Thine is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory
10. Amen
11. Practical Issues Regarding Prayer
12. Prayer Life of Pastors
13. Difficulties in Prayer
14. Blessings of Prayer

STUDY GUIDE

for

The Lord's Prayer

by Rev. Gerald Procee

Lecture #13

Difficulties in Prayer

Scripture Text

“Though the LORD be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: but the proud he knoweth afar off.”—Psalm 138:6

Key Points

1. Personal prayer is not easy; you will meet with much opposition.
2. The evil one will give us sinful thoughts while we pray.
 - a. The devil tempts us to think that God will not hear us because of our sin.
3. God hears the prayers of those who come with a penitent heart.
 - a. Scripture shows that God hears the prayers of even unconverted people.
 - b. God hears the prayers of little children who have a simple faith.
 - c. God will hear the unbeliever who prays for conversion and faith.
4. Daily labor can keep us very busy and tempt us to neglect prayer.
 - a. We must not allow our daily labors to interfere with the spiritual work of prayer.
 - b. We must not be lazy about the work of prayer.
5. Ignorance of the nature of God can be a hindrance to prayer.
 - a. We need the knowledge of God's mercy, his bountiful goodness, kindness, and love.
6. The evil one will try to distance us from the Lord through temptation.
 - a. We must examine ourselves daily to stay close to the Lord.
7. Worldliness in our lives can be a hindrance to prayer.
8. The evil one will put thoughts into our minds to keep us from praying.

9. If we sin and do not confess it to God, that can hinder our prayers.
10. If we think that God does not answer our prayers, it can hinder us from praying.
 - a. God’s timing is perfect, and he does all things for our good.
11. There can be many struggles in prayer life.
 - a. James Fraser, a missionary, had great struggles in prayer.
12. Certain characteristics are needed in our prayer life.
 - a. Humility, faith, love, and patience.

Review Questions

1. Why does the devil try his best to stop the prayers of God’s people?

2. Sometimes, a sense of our sinfulness can hinder us from praying. How can we overcome that?

3. The Bible tells us that God answered the prayers of King Ahab and the men of Nineveh. How should this encourage us to be diligent in prayer?

4. How should we react if we start to think, “God does not hear my prayers”?

5. How does a busy life become a hindrance to prayer? Is this also an issue for you? How can we deal with that?

6. Rev. Procee says that ignorance about the nature of God can lead to a lack of faith and can be detrimental to our prayer life. Please explain this.

7. Why is it necessary for us to examine our lives every day? Can that affect our prayer life?

8. What other things can hinder the prayer life of God's people? How should we respond?

9. Rev. Procee told us many things about the experiences of missionary James Fraser regarding struggles in his prayer life. How did Fraser strive for prayer? What precious lessons did you learn from this account?

10. Please name the characteristics that are necessary in our prayer life. Why are they important?

Personal Reflections

1. What difficulties do you experience in your prayer life? What encouragements have you heard in this lecture that will help you deal with these difficulties?

2. In this lecture, we learned that the Lord has a special regard to those who are humble, but the proud he knows afar off (Psalm 138:6). The humble soul has high views of God and low thoughts of himself. Why are the virtues and fruits of grace so essential for us in order to receive the outpouring of the Spirit?
