



WOULD YOU LIKE TO SIGN UP FOR THE COURSE?

Wayne's Weekly Words

What Course? The course Jesus gave His

disciples on prayer,

*Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "**Lord, teach us to pray**, as John also taught his disciples."*

Luke 11:1 (NKJV)

I don't think I need to reproduce the "Lord's Prayer" here, you should know it. If you don't, look in Luke 11. Incidentally, our Lord did not ask us to pray that prayer, it was only an example of how we should pray.

"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened."

Luke 11:9-10 (NKJV)

When you pray, the first thing listed above is "Ask!" In this world, if you want or need something, you usually must ask for it.

You can not ask if you do not know what is needed. That is why churches list or announce prayer requests. They are given that you might pray for them. I trust that you do this!

What I am writing about today is really not how to pray but how we should handle prayer requests. We should give sufficient information that one can pray effectively BUT, all too often, people get carried away and give out information that is private in nature. When we do that, it is NOT a prayer request, it is a bit of gossip!

People need their privacy and we need to respect that. When you make a prayer request, ask yourself, "would I want people to know this about

me?"

On the other hand, some people give little or no information upon which we can base our prayers. "Please pray for Joe Jones!" We **should have** enough information to pray intelligently. But, Paul wrote,

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Romans 8:26-27 (NKJV)

While I am taking the above passage a bit out of context, the point is, the Holy Spirit intercedes for us and He knows our thoughts and expresses them. He also knows what Joe Jones' needs are even if we don't. Here are two sample prayers for Sally and Joe.

You can, and ought to, pray "*Lord, Sally Jones is going through some difficult times. You know what they are and I pray that your Spirit will direct her in what she ought to do!*"

or, "*Dear Lord, I understand that Joe Smith is having some serious medical issues. I pray that the doctors will have the wisdom to help him and that these issues will be cleared up.*"

Sometimes there are specific things which must be spelled out in a prayer request, but often the details do not have to be given and can be harmful if they are listed.

When you ask for prayer, keep this concept in mind and be a great prayer warrior, not a gossip!
