



“HEY, LORD!”

In the Gospel of Luke, the disciples came to Jesus with a request, “Lord, teach us to pray . . .”

(Luke 11:1). Jesus did so.

"When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. Luke 11:2

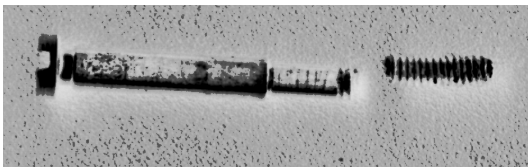
I did not cite the entire model prayer, only the opening. Ray Morawski went over this on Wednesday evening so if you missed it, it's your fault. This is the way that Jesus said we should pray (although he didn't mean for us to actually pray that prayer - it is just an example). Yes, this is the proper way to pray - most of the time.

However, Paul wrote to us saying that we are to *pray without ceasing*, I Thessalonians 5:17

Some interpret this to mean that we are to pray every day and not miss a day. I am sure this is included in the thought. I also believe that it is to be taken in a more literal sense. I believe it is to be as if we called God on the phone in the morning and said, “God, I am going to leave the phone ‘off the hook’ in case I need you for something.” This happened last night.

A friend from San Luis Obispo sent his Super-8 movie projector home with Gail yesterday to have me fix it (He wants me to put his home movies on video). Fixing it wasn't very hard - the bearings for one of the sprocket wheels had frozen up from lack of use. Some WD40 and household oil eventually did the trick.

But then! As I was tightening up the special little screw shown below, I turned too hard with the results as shown. I was in **BIG** trouble. What could I do?



There was only one thing to do! “Hey Lord, I'm in a real mess here. There is no way I can extract the broken part of this screw and, what's worse, where in the world will I get a screw like it? Lord, this is beyond me, if this projector is to get fixed, you are going to have to help!” Now, this certainly does not sound like the Lord's Prayer. Is it proper to say “Hey Lord?” I think so, I would say the same thing to another friend. The Lord must have thought so!

By the time I finished praying, the Lord said to me (not in an audible voice), “Look and see if the screw sticks out on the other side.” It did. I was able to use a small pair of pliers to screw the piece out the other side. As I was doing so, I said, “Lord, this was the easy part, where is the new screw going to come from?” By the time I had the broken screw out, the Lord had reminded me that I had given Fred Reichman \$5.00 for an old standard 8 mm projector at the flea market a year or so ago. Could I find a screw there? It was a different model and quite a bit older. Chances of finding a similar screw were really small! But that's what the Lord prompted me to do. I found the similar screw on the other projector and removed it. Sure enough, they were different.

As I examined the screw, I found the differences to be superficial and the important features were identical. I screwed it into the projector I had been working on and was done - except for one thing. Before I “hung up the phone” I said, Lord, you are sure awesome! I can hardly believe your answer to my prayers came so fast and easy! Lord, you are a great God!”

Yes, we are to have formal times of prayer in which we follow the Lord's example. But, we are also to be ready to come to God in an instant when we need help and tell Him our problems. We need not stand on long formalities, just, “Hey Lord!”

By the way, I sent e-mail to Bell & Howell (the maker of the projectors) to see if they had replacement screws. I received an e-mail this morning which read, in part, “Sorry, we haven't made those for 25 years and no one here knows anything about them.”

Wayne

