

"Lord, teach us to pray." (Luke 11:1)  
God answers the prayers of sinners, not perfect people. And you can become perfectly paralyzed in your praying if you do not focus on the cross and realize this.

I could show it from numerous Old Testament texts where God hears the cry of his sinful people, whose very sins had gotten them into the trouble from which they are crying for deliverance (for example, Psalm 38:4, 15; 40:12-13; 107:11-13). But let me show it from Luke 11 — in two ways:

In this version of the Lord's Prayer (Luke 11:2-4), Jesus says, "When you pray, say . . ." and then in verse 4 he includes this petition, "and forgive us our sins." So, if you connect the beginning of the prayer with the middle, what he says is, "Whenever you pray, say . . . forgive us our sins."

I take this to mean that this should be as much a part of all our praying as, "Hallowed be your name." Which means

that Jesus assumes that we need to seek forgiveness virtually every time we pray.

In other words, we are always sinners. Nothing we do is perfect. As Martin Luther said, on his deathbed, "We are beggars. This is true." Even if we have achieved some measure of obedience before we pray, we always come to the Lord as sinners — all of us. And God does not turn away the prayers of sinners when they pray like this.

The second place we can see this is in Luke 11:13: "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Jesus calls his disciples "evil." Pretty strong language. And he did not mean that they were out of fellowship with him. He did not mean that their prayers could not be answered.



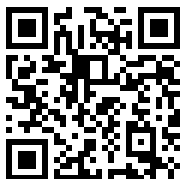
June 13, 2021

*I can do all things  
through him  
who strengthens me*

## Events

6/14-18 VBS 6-8:30 PM  
6/16 Men's Prayer 7 AM  
Women's Prayer 9:30 AM  
6/23 Small Groups  
6/19 Queenie Basilio shower  
2-4 PM @ church  
7/1-4 VisionYouth Retreat

## Give



## Upcoming Events



## Pastors

Stephen Byrd    Stu Johnston  
Michael Lopes

## Service Times

— Sunday School 9:30 am  
— Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am  
— Sunday Evening Worship 5:30 pm  
— Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:15 pm

919-563-9249  
www.grbc.net

## Morning Worship

Call to Worship	Jack Dix
Opening Hymn	Behold Our God
Scripture Reading	Romans 14:1-23, page 948
Pastoral Prayer	Pastor Stephen Byrd
Offertory	#129 Fairest Lord Jesus
Preparatory	All Glory Be to Christ
Sermon	Pastor Randy Pizzino
Post Sermon	O Lord, My Rock and My Redeemer

## Evening Worship

Call to Worship	Kent Thompson
Opening Hymn	O Great God of Highest Heaven
Scripture Reading	Proverbs 11:15-31, page 535
Pastoral Prayer	Pastor Michael Lopes
Offertory/Preparatory	Agnus Dei
Sermon	Pastor Luke Peterson
Communion	Pastor Michael Lopes
	Here is Love
	#181 O Dearest Jesus
	See the Destined Day Arise

## CLI Prison Ministry Book Drive

Until June 30, bring Christian books, CD's, and DVD's.

Please no hard cover books.

Collection box is in the back foyer.

Extra boxes for packing the books are appreciated!