

“Lord, teach us to pray”

Luke 11:1

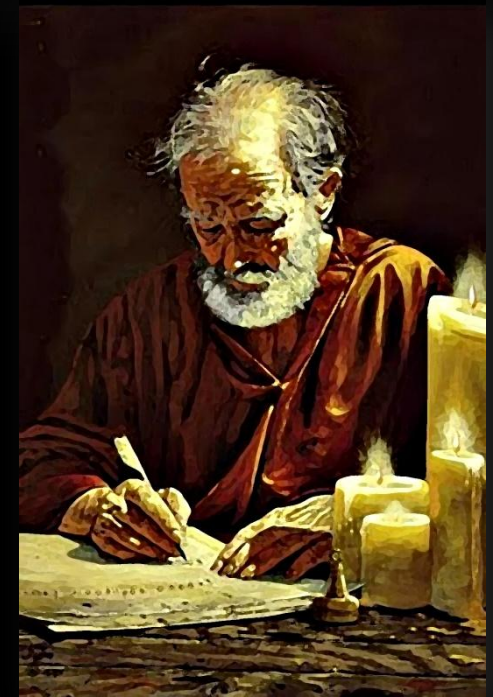


How can we
understand the
promise:
“...ask, and it
will be given to
you”?



1. The factor of what is good and what is evil? ⁽¹⁾

- In case of St. Paul, the thorn in his flesh was good for him:
“a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure” 2 Cor 12:7



1. The factor of what is good and what is evil? ⁽²⁾

- In case of Pope Shenouda, the house arrest at the monastery was the good that saved his life
- The Death of our Lord was the ultimate good for mankind



2. The factor of the future that we don't know

- If we see the future and know what God knows, we will choose what He chose
- The story of the death of the son of Moalem Ibrahim Elgohary



3. The factor of “all things” together ⁽¹⁾

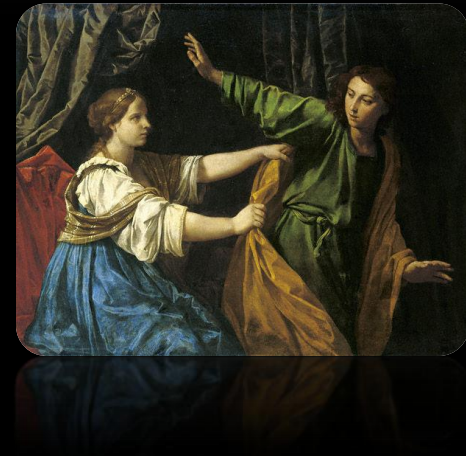
- “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God”

Romans 8:28



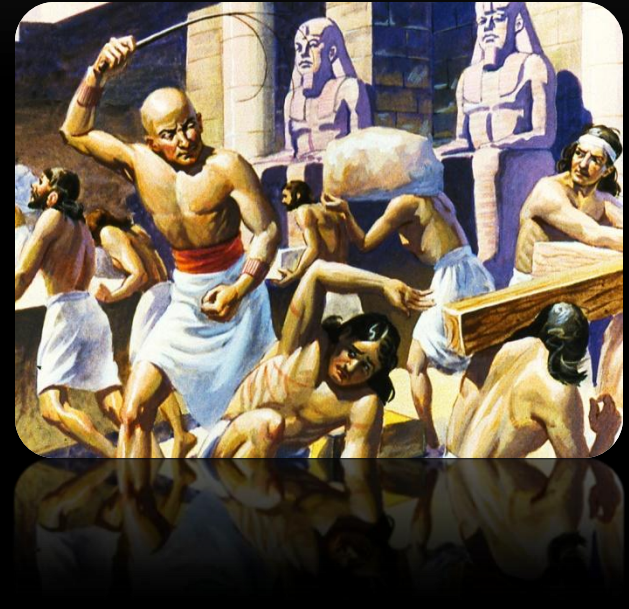
3. The factor of “all things” together ⁽²⁾

- The hatred of Joseph’s brothers, throwing Joseph in the well, selling him as a slave, working in Potiphar’s house, the false accusations against him, staying in prison, and being forgotten by the butler were all evil things that worked together for good for Joseph



4. The factor of the “work in progress” ⁽¹⁾

- God heard the cry of His people in Egypt and it took 80 years to prepare Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt



4. The factor of the “work in progress” ⁽²⁾

- The evil decision of Pharaoh to kill the Jews' children led Moses to his palace.
- The hasty decision of Moses and his wrong way that he pursued led him to the school of the wilderness



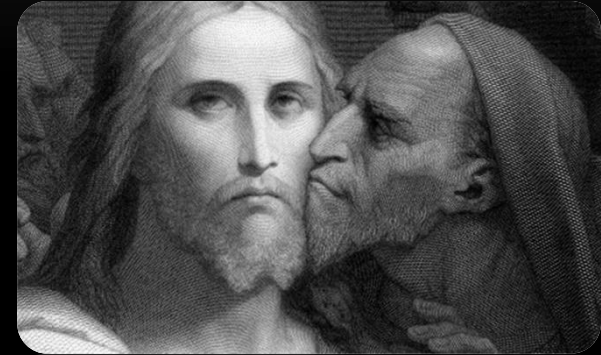
5. The factor of the “alignment” of the requests

- God typically looks for our temporal earthly requests if they are aligned with our salvation or not.
- The story of St. Augustine’s travel to Milan



6. The factor of the “others’ will”

- The Lord Christ’s prayer for His disciples: “ Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am” *John 17:24*
- Judas was among the disciples yet he will not enjoy being with the Lord Christ in His glory



7. The factor of “The big picture” ⁽¹⁾

- Moses' request to enter the Promised Land was rejected. There was a bigger picture: “But the LORD was angry with me on your account, and would not listen to me. So the LORD said to me: ‘Enough of that! Speak no more to Me of this matter’” *Deuteronomy 3:26*



7. The factor of “The big picture” ⁽²⁾

- The story in Acts 12:

“Now about that time Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church. Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword. And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter also”

Acts 12:1-3



Why and how should we pray then?

1. We pray so that God would intervene in our lives
2. Having these factors in mind, we pray so “His will be done”
3. We pray so we can know, understand, and accept His will in our lives

