

Prayer – Part 3

The Lord's Prayer

“Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And led us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen,” (Matt. 6:9-13)

Jesus was a man of prayer on this earth. The disciples saw the results of Jesus' prayer life, and in this context they asked Jesus to teach them to pray. We have this same teaching today in the passage of Scripture above. You will miss the meaning in this outline of prayer by merely reciting it, as is often done. This would be contrary to Luke 11 (where this passage is also found), when the disciples asked Jesus to “teach us to pray,” not “teach us a prayer.” Upon examining these five verses, we find that within them is every element of prayer that we are to follow.

I. “Our Father which Art in Heaven” – This encompasses recognizing the presence of God.

- A. “Our” is the first word, which speaks of unselfishness that we should have in prayer.
 - 1. The words I, me, or my are not found in this model prayer, or in many other prayers in the Bible. Ezra 9:6-15; Dan. 9; Ex. 34:9.
 - 2. It is not wrong to pray for ourselves, but the Word asks us to seek also the good of others. I Cor. 10:24; Ph. 2:4.
 - 3. Often young children know only what they want, and are not aware of the needs of others. I Cor. 13:11.
 - 4. We must recognize that we are part of the Body of Christ, and we belong to each other as well as to God, and we are not to pray independently of each other. Eph. 2:18-19; I Jn. 5:14-16.
- B. “Father” speaks of the intimacy of relationship we have with God.
 - 1. Although God is our Creator, we were all once children of the Devil. Rev. 4:11; Jn. 8:42-47
 - 2. Because of the Father's grace, He rescued us from the kingdom of darkness, and has brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves. Col. 1:13; Rom. 8:15.
 - 3. Praying to God as “Father” implies that we should always thank Him for redeeming us as His children. Lu. 10:20.
 - 4. As we recognize God as our Father, there is built an absolute trust in Him which is followed by submission and obedience. Isa. 64:8.
- C. “Which art in Heaven”
 - 1. This speaks of seeing the exalted position of God. Ac. 7:56; Ps. 46:10.

2. He is sovereign over all the earth and universe. Isa. 40:22; Eph. 1:20-22.
3. In this exalted position in heaven, He has all the resources to do all that we ask of Him. Jer. 32:17, 27.

IMPORTANT POINTS

Why are the words I, me, or my not found in the Lord’s prayer?

II. “Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom Come, thy Will be Done, on Earth as it is in Heaven.” – We will see from the following three requests in this model that prayer is not meant to change God as much as it is to change us. In each of these first three requests, “thy” is emphasized: “Thy name... Thy kingdom... Thy will.” All these prayers change us inwardly. The starting place for these prayers is first of all in our own lives, that His kingdom would come, and that His will would consume our own. Then, as we ask these things for those in our local church, our family, neighborhood, city... Our interests, plans, and habits will soon change as we seek first His kingdom.

- A. “Hallowed be thy Name” – The word hallowed means to sanctify and make holy. It comes from the Greek hagiazō.
 1. As we pray this we are asking that His name be revered and regarded as holy. Ps. 111:9, 8:1.
 2. His Name encompasses all His nature, or all He is. Ph. 2:9-11; Ps. 9:10.
 3. Our number one purpose for praying is so that “the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified,” II Thes. 1:12; Zech. 14:9.

IMPORTANT POINTS

What does it mean to pray “hallowed be thy name?”

- B. “Thy Kingdom Come”

1. The kingdom of God is the extension of God’s rule or dominion in the earth and universe. Ps. 47:7.
2. Jesus is the King of this kingdom. Rev. 1:5; Matt. 28:18.
3. The kingdom of God has come wherever Jesus of Nazareth is Lord through:
 - a. Conversion. Repentance is the door through which the life of Christ is imparted to us. Matt. 4:17; Lu. 17:20-21.
 - b. Commitment. In the Christian life there is a daily decision of whether we will bow our knee to His Lordship in every way, or please ourselves. Col. 1:10; Lu. 9:23; II Tim. 2:19.
 - c. Consummation. This is when He returns and the kingdoms of the world will become the kingdoms of our God. Rev. 11:15-17.

IMPORTANT POINTS

Describe God’s kingdom.

C. “Thy Will be Done”

1. “Thy will” emphasizes His plans and desires, and not our own, which are often different. Isa. 55:8.
2. Praying right is not letting God in on our plans, but calling for God to fulfill His own. Lu. 22:42.
3. This request involves purging and purifying, because we must line up our desires and purposes with His eternal purposes. II Tim. 2:20-21; Ps. 139:23-24, 51:10.

IMPORTANT POINTS

Explain why God desires man to emphasize His will in prayer.

D. "On Earth as it is in Heaven"

1. God's will is always done in heaven, but not on earth; if God's will were always done, we would not need to pray this. Ps. 103:20.
2. We have the right to refuse certain situations in the world that are not God's will, for persistently praying is an act of rebellion against the world and its abnormality. Lu. 18:1-8.

III. "Give us this Day our daily Bread, and Forgive us our Debts, as We Forgive our Debtors. And Lead us not into Temptation, but Deliver us from Evil." After having focused on God, we may now turn toward the believer. Once God has been given the proper place, then we have the proper perspective toward ourselves.

A. "Give us this Day our daily Bread"

1. "Give us" is something we may say with confidence and without shame. I Jn. 3:21-22, 5:14.
2. "This day" speaks of a daily relationship with the Father in which we ask Him to meet this day's needs.
3. "Bread" is really a broad term encompassing all of man's physical and spiritual needs, but not necessarily luxuries. Isa. 33:16; Jn 6:32-35.
4. There is true humility in daily asking God to meet these basic needs, without trusting in our own ability to provide for ourselves. Pr. 30:8-9; Matt. 6:25-34.
5. It is to the glory of God that He gives us bread. Jer. 20:13.

IMPORTANT POINTS

Why should a believer ask God to give him daily bread?

B. "And Forgive us our Debts"

1. This is a cry for purity. Ps. 139:23; Jer. 17:10.
2. God forgives us as we openly confess our sins, ending our relationship to it. Pr. 28:13; I Jn. 1:9.
3. We must seek forgiveness now to avoid His judgment later. II Chr. 32:25-26; Matt. 18:23-25, 6:14-15.
4. If we search our hearts and live in a desire for holiness and to expose all sin, we would not come under God's discipline and judgment. I Cor. 11:31; I Jn. 3:3.
5. It is to the glory of God that He forgives. Ps. 25:11; Dan. 9:19; Isa. 43:25.

C. “As we Forgive our Debtors” – This is a statement of commitment to obey and live by God’s Word: “We have and will continue to forgive others, as your Word says... We have and will continue to lay down our lives for each other, as your Word says...”

1. We are able to love because He has first loved us. I Jn. 4:10.
2. Forgiveness is a part of love. I Cor. 13:5.
3. Therefore, we are also able to forgive since He has first forgiven us. Eph. 4:32; Matt. 9:2.
4. What Jesus has done for us we must do for others. Jn. 13:12-15, 34.
5. We should commit ourselves to doing these things in prayer before God. Ps. 119:17, 60, 106.

D. “And Lead us not into Temptation, but Deliver us from Evil”

1. We must be led by the Spirit and follow Jesus’ voice. Isa. 48:17; Jn. 10:3-4; Isa. 30:21.
2. God will only lead us into His righteousness. Ja. 1:13-14.
3. When we are led by Him, He is able to deliver us from evil. Gal. 5:16; I Cor. 10:13.
4. He leads us because of His glory (or His name’s sake). Ps. 31:3, 23:3.

IMPORTANT POINTS

What is the meaning behind praying “lead us...”?

IV. “For thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, forever. Amen.” Here again, emphasis is on God, His kingdom, His power, and His glory. I Tim. 1:17.

A. “For thine is the Kingdom”

1. God’s kingdom rules over all other kingdoms, past, present, and future. Ps. 103:19, 22:28, 145:13.
2. His ways and His purposes prevail. Isa. 46:10; Ps. 135:6.
3. It must be established in our hearts that as King of the universe, God is able to complete His purposes through our prayers. Deu. 4:39; Jn. 14:13-14.

B. “For thine is... the Power” – God has all the power to do even what is impossible with man. Matt. 28:18, 19:26. He has the power to:

1. Bring about complete salvation in someone’s life. Heb. 7:25.

- a. Forgiveness of sins. Matt. 9:6.
 - b. Healing. Ac. 10:38.
 - c. Deliverance. Dan. 3:17.
 - d. Preserve in righteousness. Rom. 16:25; Jude 24.
 - e. Bring one into the image of Jesus. Ph. 3:21; II Cor. 3:18.
2. To fulfill all His promises. Rom. 4:21.
 3. To do more than all we can ask or imagine. Eph. 3:20.

IMPORTANT POINTS

Specifically, what does God have the power to do?

- C. “For thine is... the Glory” – God has the power to do all these things as the King of the kingdom, but it is essential to see that it is for His glory.
1. We are to bring glory to Him for His righteous acts. Rev. 15:4.
 2. He is the only one worthy to receive glory. Rev. 4:11.
 3. God will not share this glory with another. Isa. 42:8; Ps. 115:1.
 4. We must firmly recognize that all glory is toward Him. I Chr. 29:11.

IMPORTANT POINTS

Why does God receive glory?

V. Point of Decision – An unknown author has written:

I cannot pray:	...if I:
“Our”	live only for myself.
“Father”	do not try to act like His child.
“who art in Heaven”	am not laying up treasure there.
“Hallowed be thy Name”	am not striving for holiness.
“Thy Kingdome Come”	am not doing everything in my power to hasten it.
“Thy Will be Done”	am disobedient to the Word.
“In Earth as it is in Heaven”	do not serve Him here and now.
“Give us this Day our daily Bread”	am dishonest and seeking subterfuge.
“Forgive us our Debts”	harbor a grudge.
“Lead us not into Temptation”	deliberately place myself in its path.
“Deliver us from Evil”	do not put on the whole armor of God.
“Thine is the Kingdom”	do not give the King loyalty.
“and the Power”	fear man.
“and the Glory”	seek my own honor.
“Forever”	am bounded completely by time.

PERSONAL APPLICATION - THE LORD’S PRAYER

1. Praying to God as “Father” means that I...

2. What is happening in my inner man as I pray that God’s name, kingdom, and will be exalted?

3. Why am I to ask God to forgive my debts?

4. At this point of decision, I desire to follow Jesus' first teaching on prayer. This will mean changing my prayer life from... to...
