

THE LORD'S PRAYER – KEY TO GOD'S THRONE ROOM

One of the best known Scriptures is found in Matthew chapter 6:9 – 13. It is commonly known as the Lord's Prayer. It is repeatedly quoted by multitudes, sometimes in church services, or special meetings, but probably most often by individuals in their private prayer time.

Our Lord Jesus Christ gave this prayer to us in the Scriptures as an example of how the believer can effectively pray.

This example of prayer was given for a far better reason than what most of us realize. At first we may stumble a bit while memorizing his words, but soon as we have it well learned we find it very easy to quote. It can become a ritual through repetition and soon has no real impact nor does similar prayers offered from memory.

It is a beautiful selection of words given unto us specifically by our Lord and Redeemer Jesus the Christ. Not only are they an example, they contain a wealth of knowledge revealing the power and authority of almighty God. We should be keenly aware of His awesome deity every time we offer a prayer or praise to him.

It was obvious that prayer offered by the Priests and Pharisees in the days of the Lord, had become a ritual. Prayer was laced with many words to demonstrate the prowess of the scribes and priests. Offered in arrogance and pride, they had little or no effect.

Oh, they were so beautiful and poetic and repeated over and over again by the so-called “spiritual hierarchy” of the Temple leadership. Prayer became a beautiful way to magnify their superiority over those to whom they “ministered”.

They would stand before the people; sometimes within the Temple or Tabernacle in their “holy garb” and rattle off their ritualistic prayers in self-righteous arrogance. It was common for them to show up in the streets at any opportune moment to strut their stuff in front of the passing crowds.

Jesus looked at the disciples and said don't pray like that: This is how you should pray.

Matthew 6:9-13 KJV

9 After this manner therefore pray ye:

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

The following is a discourse dealing with the deeper meaning than most recognize:

OUR FATHER:

The word “**OUR**” declares our position and privilege to approach the throne of God. We have citizenship in the kingdom of God. Our “born-again” birth certificate is in order. We have the rights to come into the presence of God.

“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4:16 KJV

“FATHER” – “Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me” Isaiah 46:9 KJV

The Father to whom we direct our prayer is not just any father. He is Almighty God, the creator of all things, all-powerful and holy without limit. He is supreme and regal. He can create and destroy with his very breath.

Too often, we come before him in prayer with casual abandonment of the awesome respect that he demands. There is no power in all of his creation that can compare to him.

He is not “the man upstairs” nor our “buddy”, nor is he some other god. We should approach him with ultimate reverence and humility. He has chosen us to be his special people. His love and ability is beyond limit.

It is by his grace and mercy that he sent his ***“ONLY BEGOTTEN SON”*** to redeem us from the bondage of sin and destruction; eternal judgment and damnation. We have no right or privilege to come into his presence outside of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our prayers will be far more effective as we recognize that he is deity above all deity, power above all power, absolute in his word, and holy beyond our comprehension. Yet, he calls us his children, the bride of Jesus. His Son and heirs of all that he is.

We are privileged to call him Father and be treated as his children. His unlimited blessings are equal to the heritage of our Lord Jesus.

When we come into his presence with this awareness of his great love for us, we shall find that his Holy Spirit will connect with our spirit in sweet fellowship and communication.

Unrighteous people of the world are always talking about their faith in god. There are many gods in the world, but they are only a figment of human imagination. They are powerless and inanimate. The only exception might be Lucifer, the angel of evil who can do nothing but lie, steal, and destroy; the arch-enemy of every Christian.

“WHICH ART IN HEAVEN”; establishes our understanding that we know who Almighty God is and acknowledge him as the God above all gods. There really is none other like him.

“HALLOWED” be thy name. Nearly everything is known by a name. This describes the absolute purity of his name and all that it represents. There is no blemish on his reputation. It is the ultimate expression of integrity. His word is his bond. His actions are unquestionable.

“THY KINGDOM COME”: expresses where our inner vision is. His kingdom will be perfect in every measure. This opens the door of our spirit to express our longing, and indeed, our hope and vision of that perfect kingdom that we shall enjoy for the ages to come. It shows our awareness of the corrupt kingdom in which we live and that we as the citizens of His kingdom are anxious for it to take complete control over the kingdoms of this world.

“THY WILL BE DONE”: our human nature is very selfish. It calls for the way of sin and corruption and all the faults and vices of our fallen nature. As we come to the Lord in prayer we acknowledge “Lord, I know that my will is contaminated by sin and that my judgment and desires are often the result of my sinful nature. I recognize that my will is imperfect. However, Lord; I want what you want for me more than anything else. I want your guidance and direction. Replace your will with mine should I pray amiss.

“IN EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN”: Father I realize that I cannot begin to understand all that you desire for me to experience as I live on this earth. Please know my heart and answer my prayer in whatever way is best for me and brings glory to you. I trust you to guide me as I walk the straight and narrow path that leads to eternal life.

“GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD”: we naturally think of this as asking the Lord for our daily sustenance and other needs of life on this earth. Certainly, God promises to provide for us and meet our needs on a daily basis. However, there is something much deeper here. Remember that Jesus told us that he is both the “bread and the water of our life”.

Let us look beyond our carnal needs and focus upon the most important provision that we can ever attain. The most valuable food we can receive is that which comes from the Word of the Lord. If we focus upon spiritually eating his Word and drinking of his water of life, we shall find that the fullness of our spirit will prepare us to receive the tangible needs of this world.

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus
Philippians 4:19

Let us remember that God said that he knows our need in this life. As we eat and digest our spiritual food, we will find ourselves yielded and prepared for him to minister to our carnal needs

“FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS AS WE FORGIVE OTHERS”: these words deal with far more than tangible finances. If we have grudges or bitterness against others we hold the spirit of un-forgiveness against to those that have wronged us. These feelings may be from a long time ago, but they are still a yoke around our neck and will keep us from enjoying God’s forgiveness for our imperfections.

Many a Christian has failed to have their prayers answered because they refuse to forgive someone that has wronged them.

If you forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your heavenly father forgive your trespasses
Matthew 6:15

“LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION”: the original meaning of the word temptation is best explained by the word “adversity.” We are actually praying that the Lord will not allow us to go into situations that bring pain and anguish to us.

As we look at the entire phraseology, we are asking God to keep us from anything that would cause us to lose faith and give up our position on the straight and narrow path that leads to everlasting life. In other words, we are saying Lord do not let me get into things that I cannot handle. In addition, of course, he has promised to do that in his written word.

“BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL”: here again, our carnal nature often leads into satan’s trap. This last request of the prayer acknowledges that we are yielding our will to God, admitting that our wisdom and knowledge is not sufficient to keep us safe. It really says that I know that I am not capable to live a victorious life without your guidance and help.

“FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM, AND THE POWER, AND THE GLORY FOREVER.” This final declaration certifies to our Lord that we realize that without him we are nothing. That everything about our life is dependent upon his help and direction. It is a statement of our total dependence upon him. Thus my beloved, you should remember the deeper meaning of these words each time you pray the Lord’s Prayer. That never again you will casually offer the words without appreciation for his wonderful love and grace extended to us. ***PRAISE HIS WONDERFUL NAME!***

The prayer is asking God to let his kingdom be here as it is in heaven. It will be here in total perfection during the 1000-year reign. **HOWEVER**, it is here in spirit now in those who have been "Born Again", Redeemed! We are the temple of the Holy Spirit and Jesus left the Holy Spirit here to be everything and more than he did in the flesh. The Holy Spirit is everywhere present.

I know that it does not seem that way! We let our old carnal flesh rule us more than we realize. On the other hand, all the war going on against Christians is because satan knows that he will never conquer them. Our very presence certifies his eventual destiny!