

REVIVAL NEWS

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“IN THIS MANNER, THEREFORE, PRAY” Matthew 6:9a

In **Luke 11:1**, one of the disciples asked Jesus “*Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples*”. Obviously, the disciples had observed this: that John’s disciples prayed as John had taught them. “*So Jesus said to them, ‘When you pray, say’*” (v.2). It appears from this passage that Jesus taught the **prayer** as if it would be said by rote, and so for centuries Christians have prayed the prayer by rote and this prayer has been a great blessing. However, in **Matthew 6:9** Jesus said to pray “*in this manner*”. This also could read ‘to pray in this way’. Jesus was giving us a pattern of how to pray, not just praying the Scriptures by rote [that is very good], but to follow the pattern in which Jesus gives us awesome points of prayer.

I. OUR FATHER

The first point is to recognise that God is our Father. He is the Father of us. He is “*the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ*” (**Eph.1:3**), and He is the source of “*every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ*”.

Let us consider some of the blessings that our Father gives to us: “*He chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love*” (v.4).

And not only that, He “*predestined us to adoption as sons* [the placement of the son in maturity to receive the inheritance from the Father] *by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will*” (v.5).

And all this is only an introduction to all the wonderful things God our Father gives to us. We could read from **Ephesians 3:14-20** and find out many more wonderful spiritual blessings that come to us from the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In praying according to ‘this way’ that Jesus set out for us, we search the Scriptures to fill out a greater and deeper understanding of God as our Father. It is very awesome to take time to meditate and to search the Scriptures and to lift up His word, magnifying our Father God.

In giving us the ‘adoption as sons’, the Father brings us into an intimate relationship with Himself through Jesus Christ. Paul says we “*cry out, Abba, Father*” (**Rom.8:15**). Our Father guarantees our deliverance from “*the spirit of bondage again to fear*”.

II. IN HEAVEN

Our Father is in heaven. Heaven is the abode of God, the holy angels and the saints who have gone before us. “*YAHWEH says ‘heaven is My throne’*” (**Isa.66:1**). John says “*I*

looked, and behold a door standing open in heaven". John heard a voice speaking to him saying *"Come up here"* (Rev.4:1). Then John says *"I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven and One sat on the throne"* (v.2). We learn that we go up to heaven; heaven is in the Spirit and there is a throne, with one sitting on it.

III. HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME

'Hallow' means to regard as holy; it means God's name is sanctified; it is holy. How do we 'hallow' His name? Answer: by showing reverence, appreciation and understanding of His wonderful Name. God reveals His character and nature to us through the many names that He is called in the Scriptures.

What is His name? The name in the Old Testament is YAHWEH (Ex.3:13-15). God gives us an amazing understanding of His name. Unfortunately, most English Bibles do not translate the name of God, YAHWEH [YEHOVAH], but simply put LORD instead of a translation. The name of God appears over 6000 times in the Old Testament, and the lack of the translation of His name has robbed the modern church of the revelation of the personal God, Our Father.

In the New Testament, the name that is given is the name of Jesus. Both Mary and Joseph were told separately by the Angel *"you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins"* (Matt.1:21 & Lu.1:31).

There is so much wonderful teaching about the name of Jesus in the Scriptures. In Mark 16:17-18, Jesus tells of the mighty works that will be done by the disciples in His name. In Acts 3:16 Peter says that it was through faith in the Name that the lame man was made well, and he declares this again in Acts 4:10, and then declares *"there is no other Name under heaven, given among men, by which we must be saved"* (Acts 4:12).

Paul declares in Philippians 2:9-11 that God has given to Jesus *"the name which is above every name"*, and God receives glory when we lift up the name of Jesus.

In both New and Old Testament there are many wonderful, revelational, compound names of the Lord. Let us mention just a few of them:

Some Names of God:

- ❖ **Yehovah - Yireh:** the LORD will provide (Gen.22:14)
- ❖ **Yehovah - Rophe:** the LORD who heals you (Ex.15:26)
- ❖ **Yehovah - Nissi:** the LORD is my banner (Ex.17:15)
- ❖ **Yehovah - M'Kaddesh:** I am the LORD who sanctifies you (Lev.20:8)
- ❖ **Yehovah - Shalom:** the LORD is peace (Judges 6:24)
- ❖ **Yehovah - Tsidkenu:** the LORD our righteousness (Jer.23:6)
- ❖ **Yehovah - Rohi:** the LORD is my shepherd (Ps.23:1)
- ❖ **Yehovah - Shammah:** the LORD is there, He is present (Ezek.48:35)

Some names of Jesus from the Old Testament:

"His Name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Is.9:6).

"The virgin shall bear a Son and shall call His name Immanuel" (Is.7:14). God is with us.

There are many other names of Jesus in the New Testament, and of God in the Old Testament: take time to search them out as you learn 'to hallow His name'. Each name that is given to us, referring to the Father or to the Son, gives us revelational understanding of God. He is revealed in His name and we hallow Him as we receive the revelation of His name.

IV. YOUR KINGDOM COME

The word 'kingdom' is used 120 times in the New Testament, and most of the references are to the Kingdom of God. The parables are given so that we can understand the kingdom of God. Jesus said ***“unless one is born again [from above], he cannot see the kingdom of God” (Jn.3:3)***. We enter the kingdom of God by being born of the Spirit (v.5).

Paul affirms that the kingdom of God is a Spiritual dimension, a Spiritual reality: ***“For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit” Rom.14:17.***

We read in Daniel that ***“the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom, even forever and ever” (Dan.7:18, see also v.22)***.

The kingdom that we are praying and proclaiming to “come”, is a spiritual kingdom. God’s kingdom transcends and overcomes all other kingdoms. There is so much about the kingdom of God in the Scriptures. Jesus said to the disciples at the Last Supper, ***“I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed upon Me” (Lu.22:29)***, and in **Luke 12:32** Jesus said, ***“Do not fear little flock, for it is the Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom”***.

Father let your Kingdom come!

V. YOUR WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IN HEAVEN

The will of God is done perfectly in heaven and it is God’s will for His will to be done on the earth, as it is in heaven. God’s will is in His word - the Bible. The word of God transforms us by the renewing of our minds that we ***“may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Rom.12:2)***. We are to ***“understand what the will of the Lord is” (Eph.5:17)***. As we receive revelation through the word of God, we become more like Jesus and God’s will is done on earth through us and according to the prayers that God enables us to pray.

The word of God reveals His will for:

- Those in authority: it is God’s will for them to be saved (**1 Tim.2:1-6**)
- All to be saved (**1 Tim.2:4; 2Pet.3:9**)
- His followers to ***“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations” (Matt.28:19-20)***
- Believers to live in victory (**1Jn.5:4-5**)
- Righteousness and peace to cover the earth (**Rom.14:17**)
- Believers to ***“prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers” 3 Jn.2.*** [health refers to soundness of doctrine; soundness of words; soundness in the faith.]

VI. GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD

What is our daily bread? Jesus tells us not to be anxious about our temporal needs but to seek first for His Kingdom - **Matthew 6:25-33**. God desires for all people to be His people and to enjoy His care and provision. In **Matthew 6:25-32**, every Christian can confidently ask God, with thanksgiving, for their daily needs of **food, clothing, shelter** and basic **education** for their children.

“For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world” **John 6:33**. Jesus is the bread of life. We are to eat and drink of His life daily. Jesus said: ***“The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life”*** (**John 6:63**). As well as asking God in faith for our daily temporal needs, we also need to **ask God for our daily spiritual food**. His word is food to nourish our spirits and our souls.

I have come to realise that as well as our daily sustenance, both natural and spiritual, we can also ask our Father for the grace we need for each day to do His will. It is one thing to know His will, but we require grace to enable us to do His will, day by day.

VII. FORGIVENESS

“Forgive us our debts [trespasses], as we forgive our debtors [those who trespass against us]”. Forgive others first. We need to recognise that forgiving others is necessary for us to receive forgiveness ourselves. Jesus emphasises this in **Matthew 6:14-15**, after He has taught us the Lord’s Prayer. He speaks again about the importance of forgiveness: ***“For if you forgive men for their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses”***.

Being able to forgive others is only possible if we personally receive God’s forgiveness. All of us have been forgiven by Jesus and through His forgiveness, we were justified, but walking in the reality of forgiveness [which means we have an open heart toward God and able to receive His word], enables us to forgive others.

When we realise that someone is holding something against us [a debt or a trespass], we firstly need to forgive them and then often we will need to approach the person and ask for their forgiveness. This is how we walk in the forgiveness of God.

VIII. GUIDANCE AND DELIVERANCE

“And do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from the evil one” (**Matt.6:13**).

God does not tempt us, and we must not put ourselves in the way of temptation. ***“For all that is in the world - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life - is not of the Father but is of the world”*** (**1 John 2:16**). We must learn to avoid those things that would draw us away from Jesus Christ.

We are praying to God that His guidance through the Holy Spirit will be strong in our lives, so that we are not walking in places of temptation. It is the devil who wants us to walk into temptation. We pray for deliverance from the evil one.

Jesus prayed for our protection: ***“I do not pray that You take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one”*** **John 17:15**. As we see what Jesus has done, we focus on Him, recognising His great power to deliver and save us from the evil one. At the cross Jesus won total victory over Satan and over all that is evil. Now through faith in His name, we can walk in that victory. ***“For you did not receive***

the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the spirit of adoption, by which we cry out ‘Abba Father’” (Rom.8:15). The Holy Spirit leads us as sons (v.14).

James 4:6-8 gives us a simple instruction:

- i. Humble yourself to receive grace (v.6).
- ii. Submit to God and resist the devil (v.7).
- iii. Cleanse your hands; purify your hearts, drawing near to God (v.8).

IX. EXALTATION AND PRAISE

“For yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”

We began the prayer by relating to God personally as our Father and now at the end of the

time of prayer, we **focus on the Lord GOD, our Father**, recognizing that the kingdom of

God is real and relevant in our lives; that all authority belongs to Him (**Matt.28:18**).

We recognize that the power that is now at work in our lives is the power of God, quickened in our inner man by the Holy Spirit (**Eph.3:16**), and by this quickening God releases His power *“with signs and wonders and various miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit” (Heb.2:4)*. We give all the glory to God, recognizing that every good thing comes from Him (**James 1:17**); and His will for us is *“good, acceptable and perfect” (Rom.12:2)*. God will manifest His glory.

Finally, the whole earth:

“will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of YAHWEH as the waters cover the sea” (Hab.2:14).

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