

Praying the LORD'S PRAYER

The disciples of Jesus asked: *“Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples”* Luke 11:1.

In Matthew 6:9, Jesus said: *“In this manner, therefore pray:”*

A) FOCUS ON GOD, COMING INTO RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM

“Our Father”

Jesus draws us into family relationship with God Almighty, Creator of the universe, through Himself. We are to call God, “Our Father”.

We receive *“the Spirit of adoption [sonship] by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father’”* (Rom. 8:15). We are given an assurance of a place in the family of God.

God is “In heaven”.

God dwells in heaven, His eternal home. *“Heaven is My throne and earth is My footstool”* (Is.66:1). We see God in all His glory enthroned on high, in heaven.

We lift our eyes from earthly things to focus on God’s rulership of all things.

This is the realm where:

- the inhabitants worship non-stop (Rev.5:14)

- the radiance of God and of the Son provide the light (Rev.21:23)
- the throne of God is central (Rev.4:2)
- streams of living water flow from this throne with water for healing (Rev. 22:1-2).

B) WE WORSHIP GOD BY HALLOWING HIS NAME

“Hallowed be Your name.”

His name is special. Jesus is telling us to praise and honour God’s name

hallow: means to make holy, to venerate,

The Name of God

God told Moses His name was *“I AM WHO I AM”* (Exodus 3:14). God has revealed Himself in His name in a number of ways on various occasions. His names reveal His nature and His character.

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)

The Name of Jesus

“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.

C) WE PRAY FOR HIS KINGDOM TO COME

“Your Kingdom come”

We are praying for the rule and authority of God to be manifest in the earth. God’s kingdom is eternal but through Jesus Christ, the kingdom has been established in the earth in a real and conscious way. We must be born again to see and enter that kingdom and to live our lives under the rule of God.

D) WE PRAY FOR HIS WILL TO BE DONE

“Your will be done on 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.

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.]

E) WE PETITION GOD FOR OUR NEEDS

“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.

F) WE SEEK 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”.*

G) WE ASK FOR GUIDANCE

“And do not lead us into temptation”.

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.

H) WE PRAY FOR DELIVERANCE FROM THE EVIL ONE

“But deliver us 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.

James 4:6-8

- 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).

I) WE CONCLUDE IN WORSHIP

“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**, 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**).
- ❖ 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**).

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