

The Lord's Prayer
Matthew 6:9-15

Introduction.

- A. Some call it the disciples' prayer (cf. Jn. 17).
- B. Used as liturgy since 3rd century.
- C. Didache 8:3 (c. AD 100) – Should be prayed 3x per day.
- D. Repeated in Luke – similar but not the same.
 - 1. Sermon on the Mount.
 - 2. The disciples' request.
- E. Useful pattern of prayer with applicable principles.
 - 1. The Kingdom has come – and is coming.
 - 2. Doesn't say to pray in Jesus's name.
 - 3. Says a lot in a few words.
- F. Is it acceptable to pray other people's prayers?
 - 1. Of course, especially if stuck (pray the Psalms).
 - 2. Examples.
- G. Prayer is primarily worship.

I. The preface.

- A. Our Father (2 Co. 6:18).
 - 1. We pray to our father.
 - a. Not to saints (not even Mary).
 - b. Not to angels.
 - 2. We can come boldly into his presence (He. 4:16).
 - 3. He is our father in two ways.
 - a. Creation (Ac. 17:28; Mal. 2:10).
 - b. Adoption and regeneration (Ep. 1:5; Ga. 4:6).
 - 4. "Our" – not "My."
- B. In heaven.
 - 1. Three uses of "heaven" in the Bible.
 - a. The atmosphere.
 - b. Where the stars are.
 - c. Where God is (Paradise, Lk. 23:43; 2 Co.12: 1-4).
 - 2. Where the Lord is.
 - a. Christ is in heaven (He. 8:1).
 - b. Christ is at the right hand of God (Ac. 7:56).
 - 3. We come to God in reverence (Ec. 5:2).

II. Petitions relating to God and his honor.

A. Hallowed be your name (adoration).

1. Holy, sanctified.
2. Fixes our focus on God, not on man (cf. 6:5).
3. One's name symbolizes his whole character (Jn. 17:11f.;12:28-30).

B. Your kingdom come.

1. The message of both John the Baptist and Jesus (Mt. 3:2; 4:17).
2. A call to repentance (Mt. 4:17).
3. Both the first and second coming of Christ (Re. 22:20).
 - a. The millennial kingdom.
 - b. Daily Jewish prayer: Let him make his kingdom reign, let his redemption flourish, and let his Messiah come and deliver his people.

C. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

1. If we pray that he will rule us, then we should pray that we will be ruled by him (1 Sam. 3:18).
2. Enable me to do what pleases you.
3. Competing wills.
 - a. Our own (1 Pe. 4:2).
 - b. Satan's (Jn. 8:44).
4. What are some things we *know* are God's will?
 - a. All should be saved (2 Pe. 3:9).
 - b. That we should be holy (1 Pe. 1:15).

III. Petitions for ourselves.

A. Our daily bread

1. All our physical needs (cf. Ex. 16 – manna).
 - a. Not for tomorrow.
 - b. For today.
2. Depending on the mercy of God.

B. Forgive us our debts (trespasses).

1. We are justified in Christ.
2. Daily cleansing (Jn. 13:6-10; 1 Jn. 1:9).
3. Affects our relationships.
 - a. With God.
 - b. With others.
 - c. With ourselves.
4. As we forgive others (Mt. 18:21-35; Ep. 4:32).
 - a. Forgiveness is a Christian virtue (Mt. 5:39-40).
 - b. Lack of forgiveness fosters bitterness.
 - c. When I see how much I have offended God, yet he has forgiven me, how can I refuse to forgive someone who offends me?

C. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.

1. God does not tempt us to do evil (Ja. 1:13-14).
 - a. Don't leave us to ourselves in this evil world (Ps. 19:13).
 - b. No temptation is unbearable (1 Co. 10:13).
2. Deliver us from the evil one.
 - a. Not to be assaulted by Satan or his followers.
 - b. Satan does not give up after we get saved.
 - c. But – we are our greatest tempters (Ro. 7).

IV. Closing remarks.

A. Where is the doxology (Ps. 29:11)?

B. Forgiveness -- the foundation of prayer.

1. We are reconciled to God.
2. We should be reconciled to each other (Jn.13:35; Ro.12:18).
3. The peace of God (Ph. 4:7).
4. The God of peace (Ph, 4:9).

Prayers we can pray.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith. Where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, not so much to be understood as to understand, not so much to be loved, as to love; For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, it is in dying that we awake to eternal life. – Francis of Assisi

Christ behind and before me. Christ behind and above me. Christ with me and in me. Christ around and about me. Christ on my right and on my left. Christ when I lie down at night, Christ when I rise in the morning. Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me. Christ in the mouth of everyone that speaks of me. --
Patrick of Ireland

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time; accepting hardship as a pathway to peace; taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; trusting that you will make all things right if I surrender to your will; so that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with you forever in the next.

Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves, when our dreams have come true because we have dreamed too little, when we arrived safely because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, Lord, when with the abundance of things we possess, we have lost our thirst for the waters of life; having fallen in love with life, we have ceased to dream of eternity and in our efforts to build a new earth, we have allowed our vision of the new heaven to dim.

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas where storms will show your mastery; we ask you to push back the horizons of our hopes, and to push into the future in strength, courage, hope and love. – Sir Francis Drake

Oh God, ... we thank thee for thy Church, founded upon thy Word, that challenges us to do more than sing and pray, but to go out and work as though the very answer to our prayers depended on us and not upon thee.... Help us to realize that man was created to shine like the stars and live on through all eternity.

Keep us, we pray, in perfect peace, help us to walk together, pray together, sing together and live together until that day when all God's children, black, white, red, and yellow will rejoice in one common band of humanity in the kingdom of our Lord and of our God, we pray. Amen. – Martin Luther King, Jr.

Loving Lord and heavenly Father, I offer up today all that I am, all that I have, all that I do, and all that I suffer, to be yours today and yours forever. Give me grace, Lord, to do all that I know of your holy will. Purify my heart, sanctify my thinking correct my desires. Teach me in all of today's work and trouble and joy, to respond with honest praise, simple trust, and instant obedience, that my life may be in truth a living sacrifice, by the power of your Holy Spirit and in the name of your son Jesus Christ, my master and my all. – Elisabeth Elliot

Lord, give me a mind to know you, a heart to love you, and a body to serve you.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me. Lord and Master of my life, protect me from a spirit of slothfulness, meddling, ambition, and vain talk. Bestow upon me, your servant, the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love. Lord and King, grant that I may see my own sins and not judge my brother or sister, for you are blessed to the ages of ages. Amen.