

## THE LORDS PRAYER

### ALSO KNOWN AS THE MODEL PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

The Lord's Prayer contains just six petitions divided into two groups of three each. It is significant that the first group begins the prayer. They have to do with the interest of God. The second Interest has to do with us. This prayer is not short as would appear. If measured by its contents, it is longer than Solomon's prayer at the dedication of the Temple. Every word is important.

#### 1. The Interest of God

- A. "Our Father... Hallowed be thy name." The word "Our" teaches the oneness of the church. It teaches that our father establishes relationship and that he is our source. It teaches God's holiness comes first. We should set forth God's name as holy. Hallowed be (hagiasthētō PWS: 1843): to be counted holy; to be treated holy; to be counted and treated as different.

The prayer is for men to count and treat the name of God differently, to set His name apart from all other names 1 Peter 1:15-16 (KJV) 15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. We put ourselves and our own interest away as we seek to enter the presence of God through this great vehicle of prayer.

What did God tell Moses (take off they shoes for this is Holy ground.) We have gotten too comfortable with God, he is no ordinary God, (he is not the man upstairs, he is not your homey, he is not a spiritual force, even some people call him a higher power) that is a dishonor to the Father. For He is holy.

**Scripture ref's:** Philippians 2:9-11 (KJV)

9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth.

11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

B. **“Thy kingdom come.”** This is a great petition. Our Lord was speaking of His Eternal Kingdom. We as believers are excited and pray for the day that we meet Jesus. God's kingdom is available and God's kingdom is desperately needed on earth right now. **“Thy Kingdom come,”** means asking the heavenly Father to help us in our own lives to be faithful, obedient, authentic, and effective Christians. We spread God's kingdom not only with words but also through our actions and the observable qualities of our character.

So much just eats at the heart and troubles man—so much rebellion, wickedness, evil, hostility, bitterness, hatred, murder, injustice, deprivation, and hunger. God's rule and reign are needed now.

We've seen Hollywood take and use God's words so **frivolously, playfully, laughingly** making movies and jokes about God and his people using the importance of God's Kingdom in vain.

The believer needs to see the urgency to pray and to pray consistently, and continually "Thy kingdom come," and to live as if God's kingdom had already come.

C. **“Thy will be done.”** This is the way that the kingdom shall come. Within our prayers ought to be a mindset that recognizes God's kingdom purposes and concerns itself with furthering those purposes. We must submit to God's holy will not attainable by man standards but, only by God's standards according to his holy word.

Doing the will of God proves that a person has a kingdom connection and that they are kingdom minded advancing the kingdom of God. Because they obey and do his holy commandments.

**Scripture refs:** "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21).

**Scrip refs:** "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city [heaven]" (Rev. 22:14).

**Scripture refs:** "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself" (John 7:17; cp. John 7:16-18).

Many call God King, but they do not honor Him as a King. They do not do His will. Their profession is false, and tragically it creates an image of a false and meaningless King to the world.

We must know God's will if God's will is to be done. This requires study: "Study to show thyself approved unto God" (2 Tim. 2:15). The only way God's will can be done is for us to study His Word and ask for the wisdom and strength to apply it in our lives (2 Tim. 3:16).

God's will for each of us is something fine, constructive, and uplifting. No one need fear to pray this prayer as though it involved accepting something dreadful. It is a great ringing cry for God's will to be done here as it is in heaven-and that means we can face each day happily, successfully, triumphantly, and gloriously. We acknowledge as we pray God's will be done total dependance and total surrender to our Father in heaven.

## 2. Our Interests

A. "Give us our daily bread." This word "bread" should be expanded to include our basic needs. Yet, as has been pointed out, no man can pray for his daily bread and forget the daily needs of others. Notice the prayer is for "us," not "me." God cares for man and his welfare.

He cares for man's physical well-being (Matthew 6:33). He cares for man's mental and emotional well-being. He cares for man's spiritual well-being.

This simple request is a great lesson for both the rich and the poor.

- 1) The rich man feels self-sufficient, as though what he possesses came from his own hands. Therefore, he thinks, "Who is the Lord?"
- 2) The poor man has nothing and is often forced to steal. Thus, he raises his fist in anger and curses God for his state of life.

"Give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient [that I need] for me: lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the Lord? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain" (Proverbs 30:8-9).

The believer is to trust God for the necessities of life and praise God for what he receives. He has learned, "In whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content" (Phil. 4:11; cp. Phil. 4:12-13).

A. **"Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors."** What Jesus says in this prayer is, "Forgive others and God will forgive us."

There is a social note here, too. **"We do pray for mercy; and that same prayer doth teach us all to render deeds of mercy."**

**Scripture refs-** Matthew 5:7 (KJV) 7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

If we wish to be forgiven ourselves, both duties must be performed. We must forgive those who sin against us (Matthew 6:12), and we must ask forgiveness for our sins (1 John 1:9). There are those who do us much evil. In this world many say and do all manner of evil against us. Shocking news and evil purposes run wild, and it is not always outside the church, nor outside the family.

Sometimes terrible evil is committed by word and act both within the church and without. Here are three of the worst hurts we can experience against one another is: (Family hurt, Friend hurt, and Church hurt.) (Ephes. 4:30-32; cp. Matthew 10:21; Mark 13:12-13). Yet here Christ gives us the remedy.

We must not react nor be harsh toward those who sin severely against us, but we must forgive. We all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. We must forgive if we want **"Our Father In Heaven To Forgive Us."**

We must learn to Forgive people and put them on our prayer and concern list and not on a prayer "hit list." A prayer "Hit List" is one of our emotional prayers, our fleshly prayers that envelop us with a "I'm going to get you back" mentality during the times we are offended, persecuted, talked about, mistreated and all manner of evil is done to us. Many times, through our prayers we try to sick God on people to (attack them) instead of asking God's mercy upon them. As we would want God to have mercy upon us. We must be careful how we pray and what we pray for...

**Scripture Refs-** 2 Peter 3:9 (GW) 9 The Lord is not slow to do what he promised, as some people think. Rather, he is patient for your sake. He does not want to destroy anyone but wants all people to have an opportunity to turn to him and change the way they think and act. Also see (Matthew 6:14-15)

We must be compassionate towards others. Merciful (eleēmōnes PWS: 2567): to have a forgiving spirit and a compassionate heart. It is showing mercy and being kind. It is forgiving those who are wrong, yet it is much more. It is empathy; it is getting right inside the person and feeling right along with him. The Love of God and His Blood covers a “multitude” our sins.

**C. “Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.”** Disciples should pray and thank God for being a present help in the time of trouble and struggle with “the evil one” the Devil. We must remember that it is the Devil that is our source of temptation. We seek God’s guidance in our lives, not the Devil. We depend on God to lead us away from Satan and his methods/devices.

**Scripture refs:** 2 Corinthians 2:10-11 (KJV) 10 To whom ye forgive anything, I forgive also: for if I forgave anything, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ; 11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

**God does not lead a man to sin; He tempts no man (James 1:13).** What Christ is saying is two things.

1. **Pray**—pray that God will keep you from the awful pull of temptation. The believer is to have a sense of his personal weakness against temptation.
2. **Pray**—pray that God will deliver you from evil. The Greek says, "from the evil one," that is, Satan. The request is for God to rescue, preserve, and guard us. He, the evil one, is so deceptive and powerful; he is as powerful as a roaring lion (1 Peter 5:8).

**Remember These scriptures: Matthew 6:13-15 (KJV)**

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.

14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

1. **The promise:** forgive others and be forgiven (v.14).
2. **The warning:** refuse to forgive others and be unforgiven (v.15).

**Conclusion:**

Matthew (6:13) Amen so be it; it is and shall be so. When spoken by God, "Amen" means it is and shall be so, unequivocally. When spoken by man it is a petition meaning, "Let it be." Here, in the Lord's Prayer, the word Amen is a word of commitment. When a man prays the Lord's prayer and closes by saying "Amen" (let it be), he is committing himself to do his part for the things which have been prayed.