

The Lord's Prayer

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In this meeting we look at “The Lord’s Prayer” with the theme of praying and prayer

THE LORD’S PRAYER

To start our reflections we look at the two scripture passages recorded for us.

[Matthew 6:9-13](#)

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.

[Luke 11:2-4](#)

² And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, **Our Father which art in heaven,** Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. **Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.** ³ Give us day by day our daily bread. ⁴ And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; **but deliver us from evil.**

Notes: words highlighted in **red** are not found in modern translations, e.g. NIV

TEACH US HOW TO PRAY

The prayer was a response from Jesus to a request from His disciples to teach them to pray [Luke 11:1](#) and in both instances in Matthew and Luke Jesus said “when **ye** pray”. It is not a prayer that Christ Himself could pray [2 Cor 5:21](#)

The believer is a child of God through the new birth. The clear revelation of this fact establishes the reasonableness of prayer. God, our Father, is more than a Creator, bringing a universe into being, and establishing laws for it; more than a decree-maker determining future events by an eternal fiat. Above all we are part of His divine family for whom the universe with its laws exists.

In the Lord's prayer Christ gives an incomparable model for all prayer. It is grounded upon relationship and teaches that right prayer begins with worship; puts the interest of the kingdom before merely personal interest; accepts beforehand the Father's will, whether to grant or withhold; and petitions for present need.

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DISCUSSION THOUGHTS:

1. What is prayer?
 - Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God [Psalm 62:8](#), in the name of Christ [John 16:23](#), by the help of His Spirit [Rom 8:26](#); with confession of our sins [Psalm 32:5](#), and thankful acknowledgment of his mercies [Phil 4:6](#).
2. Why should we pray?
 - Christ prayed [Luke 6:12](#) [Mark 14:32](#) [John 17](#) (the prayer of intercession)
 - He encouraged us to pray always and not faint [Luke 18:1](#)
 - The apostles devoted themselves to prayer [Acts 6:2-4](#)

The Lord's Prayer

1. Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name
 - What does "Hallow" mean? *Honour as holy, greatly revere, render sacred*
 - "Hallowed be your name" is not a request that God be made holy, but that we will be able to reflect His holiness in the way we pray and the way we live
 - What does it mean to Hallow our Father's "Name"? What is meant by "Name"?
 - How can we Hallow His Name? [Col 3:17-24](#)
2. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven
 - What is meant by "kingdom"? *reign, rule*
 - "If He is not Lord of all, He is not Lord at all" ... Pious cliché or challenge to Christian maturity?
 - How can we play our part in enabling the will of God to be done on earth?
3. Give us day by day our daily bread
 - We recognize God as our provider and rely on Him to meet our daily needs
 - Our Father knows our physical needs [Matt 6:31-33](#)
 - We also need spiritual nourishment [Luke 4:4](#)
 - Jesus said unto them "I am the bread of life ..." [John 6:35](#)
4. Forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us
 - How do we know or experience forgiveness? *Peace, freedom from guilt*
 - Are we forgiven only if we forgive others? [Matt 6:14-15](#)
 - Are we to forgive only when others have shown repentance? [Luke 17:3-4](#)
 - How do we demonstrate that we have forgiven others?
 - Does forgiving others affect our experience of forgiveness?
5. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil
 - We seek God's' guidance and protection [Eph 6:10-18](#)
 - The Greek word for temptation means "a putting to proof", adversity
 - Why ask "lead us not into temptation"? [Matt 26:41](#)
 - We will not be tempted beyond that which we can endure [1 Cor 10:13](#)