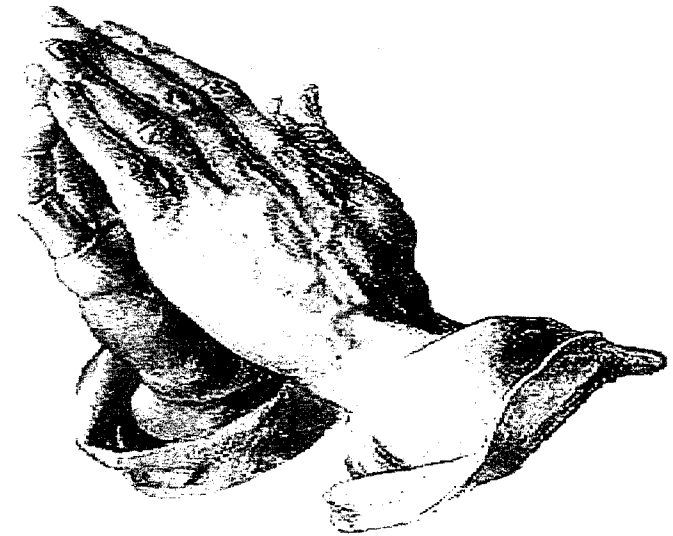




Jovita Baptist Church

Edgewood, WA

Teach us to Pray



Lessons from the Lord's Prayer

February 2014

Lord, Teach us to pray

The "Lord's Prayer" is found in Matthew 6:9-13. The prayer has also been called, "The disciples prayer" because it was given as a template to the disciples. Jesus was not telling us "What to pray", but "How to pray." Our Lord prayed His High Priestly prayer as recorded in John 17. That chapter is actually, "The Lord's Prayer."

The disciples saw the power of Christ's prayers. In response to this, they humbled themselves and came to Him and corporately asked Him to teach them to pray. Jesus gave this tremendous prayer as an example, not as a rote prayer to say over and over. He actually taught against rote prayers and just reciting words. The disciples understood this and they are never recorded in the Bible as having recited this prayer. The early church did not recite the prayer, but used it as a model for their public and private prayers.

Jesus said to the disciples, "When you pray, pray in this way." In other words, pray after this model, He was not telling them the actual words to pray, however, we can recite this prayer as part of our time with God. At the end of this pamphlet is a seven day adventure that provides a sample prayer for each aspect of the Lord's Prayer and can be used as a place to begin as you explore for yourself the richness of this model prayer.

1. Adoration

Our Father in heaven . . .

Isn't this wonderful. We can call God, "Our Father." He is not just Christ's Father, He is our Father too. Paul wrote: "For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father" (Romans 8:15). Abba is the word for "Daddy." It is an intimate and precious term and it accurately describes our relationship to our Heavenly Father.

God our Father is in heaven. What is remarkable is that when we pray, we are ushered into the Throne room of our God in heaven. Our prayers transcend time and space and we are in the very presence of the Living God.

2. Worship

.. hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

God's name is to be revered and Holy. He is to be worshipped and adored because only He is worthy, He is the only True God and Creator of the universe. God has many names and we are invited to call on His name. We acknowledge that we are in the presence of the Holy God and that He is sovereign over all. His will is going to be accomplished and we are actually praying that we get in line with what He is doing.

3. Provision

Give us this day our daily bread . . .

God provides for our daily needs. The children of Israel knew this from their history. God fed them from heaven. He provided for their daily needs up until the time they entered the promised land. Later, when Jesus came on the scene the people came to Him and were asking for the same type of miracle that Moses demonstrated many years earlier. The Bible records this event: "So they asked him, "What miraculous sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? Our forefathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from

heaven and gives life to the world." "Sir," they said, "from now on give us this bread." Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty." (John 6:30-35)

Jesus is truly the bread of life from heaven. He said: "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" (Matthew 4:1-4) We have spiritual needs and physical needs. God invites us to come and count on Him for our every need.

4. Forgiveness

Forgive us our debts

God is able to cancel the debt we owe. First and foremost is the debt of sin. *"The wages of sin is death."* Romans 6:23 The Christian is indebted to Christ for His atoning sacrifice. There are other debts we owe as well, but we are to live as people who have been forgiven. Jesus told the following story to underscore this very point in Matthew 18:23-35.

"Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. 'The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. 'But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. 'His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' 'But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they

were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened. 'Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed."

5. Intercession

.. as we also have forgiven our debtors.

As we just read, Jesus' story shows very vividly what God thinks of the unforgiving person. How can people who have been forgiven of so much through accepting Jesus Christ, live in such a way as to be demanding of others who owe them? We are to be forgiving people because we have been forgiven. When we forgive, we release ourselves from bondage. Forgiveness sets the captive free, only to find the prisoner was me. We have a debt to pray for those around us and to intercede for the souls and lives of the people for whom Christ died. He is a loving Father in Heaven and He loves to give His children good gifts, but the child of God can keep God's hand from blessing if they are unforgiving. The grace of God compels us to pray for those around us, and to live in the freedom of forgiveness.

6. Protection

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

We know that God does not tempt persons. We are tempted when we are enticed by our own lusts, James writes. When Jesus was fasting for forty days in the wilderness, He was mentally and physically weak. It was at that very vulnerable

time that satan came and tried to tempt Jesus with money, fame and power. We know that Jesus was *"in all points tempted like we are, yet without sin."* Hebrews 4:16

God permits the child of God, even His own Son to suffer and be disciplined. God can use the suffering caused by satan for good in His children's lives. In order to be tempted, satan must apparently have permission from God. We learn this from the book of Job and the life of Peter.

Christ is telling His followers to pray that they are not tempted by evil but delivered through it. We know that He will not allow us to be tempted beyond what we are able but will provide a way of escape so we can bear it. I Corinthians 10:13.

In the Bible we are told to stand firm against the tricks and lies of the devil. We have an incredible advocate on our side who is willing to help when we simply ask.

The final part of this prayer model was probably not actually in the original as we do not have a lot of source material for it. It is a completely Biblical concept and God allowed it to be put into the Bible, but it is probably an add on by some unnamed priest who was translating the scriptures and felt such a wonderful prayer needed closure. He borrowed from another passage of Scripture and added; "For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the Glory forever, Amen."

This short prayer by Jesus is just loaded with practical applications and doctrinal truths. If we had an entire lifetime we could not explore its depths. Simple in its truth, profound in its wisdom, the Lord's prayer is a model for all believers of all ages.

Praying the Lord's Prayer: A Seven Day Adventure

Here are seven days of prayer centered around each phrase of the Lord's Prayer. Use these prayers as a place to start as you spend time with God.

Day One

Dear Lord, you were asked by the disciples to teach them to pray. We also want you to teach us and help us to pray more effectively. May the words formed in our mind and the meditations of our hearts be pleasing and acceptable in your sight. Thank you for opening a way into the holy place where we can receive help and find mercy in our time of need. We love you Lord and we want to be your people. Help us to lean on you and learn from you. Give us insights into this familiar prayer and provide us a hope and a future as we continue our life in you. Teach us to pray dear Lord. Amen

Day Two

Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name. Our Savior taught us to address you as our Father. What a marvelous title and relationship we have in you, our Father. You made us and you bought us back. You sit on the throne of Heaven above all powers and all rulers and all principalities. Yet we have access to you through the blood of your son, the Lord Jesus Christ. In prayer we are transported to that spiritual place, yet that very real place where you have established your Kingdom rule. Your Son not only allowed us to address you as "Our Father" but also revealed through the Spirit that your name is hallowed, that it is Sacred, Blessed, Consecrated, Sanctified and above all, Holy. We approach you, Holy Father, in this forty days of prayer, that you would hear our prayers and grant us the requests that we petition in the Name of Jesus Christ.

Day Three

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Our Father, we look forward to, no we long for the day that your Kingdom will be established forever without the influence of the world, the flesh and the devil. We know your Kingdom has been established from everlasting to ever-

lasting, and that your will and purposes are never thwarted or frustrated in any way. Lord, we are also patently aware that we are involved in a cosmic struggle, that our warfare is not against flesh and blood but the spiritual darkness in high places. As your children and ambassadors, we ask that you will protect us, strengthen us and fight for us; that we would put on the whole armor of God and stand against the evil one. We long for that day when you will return and set all things right and rule with righteousness. While there are still many who need to hear and respond to the gospel, we say, "even so, come Lord Jesus!"

Day Four

Give us this day our daily bread. Father we realize that each day has concerns and needs. You told us not to be anxious about tomorrow but to focus on the moment, to live one day at a time, close to you, in your joy and peace and love. We are needy people, and like the children of Israel who collected the manna in the wilderness for 40 years, we your children ask that you feed us each day of this forty-day adventure in prayer. We also realize that we need more than physical bread to survive, we need the bread of heaven to nurture our souls and replenish our spirits. You know of what we need even before we ask, yet you allow us the privilege of entering your Holy palace and requesting that you grant our daily needs. Help us to distinguish between needs and wants, and truly give us the desires of our hearts as our hearts are set on you. We want what you want for us, nothing more, nothing less and nothing else. In Jesus Name.

Day Five

Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Trespasses, debts, sins; all these words are translated from the teaching of our Lord Jesus on forgiveness. You have forgiven us of all our sins, past, present and future, and in our Lord Jesus Christ we are clothed in righteousness and holiness as if we had never

sinned. Such a marvelous salvation, such grace and mercy, that Jesus would die for our sins. This Good News is almost too good to be true. Yet we know it is true and that we are forgiven, finally and forever. Because we are forgiven we have the opportunity to extend that forgiveness to others. In fact, our forgiveness even seems to be based on the fact that we forgive others. As we forgive others, you have the freedom and opportunity to forgive us. Help us not take this relationship between forgiveness and forgiving lightly, like the unforgiving servant in the parable. May we walk today in the freedom of forgiveness, help us to forgive others and if necessary to forgive ourselves. Thank you for this great salvation!
AMEN

Day Six

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Lord we know you do not tempt us but you do allow us to be disciplined for our good because you love us as your very own Son. Help us to avoid the temptations that the evil one puts in our path. Help us in your Spirit to overcome the world, the flesh and the devil and put to death these deeds done in our own earthly power. Keep me from the sin of selfishness and seeking my own thing to the detriment of other brothers and sisters and the testimony of our Lord Jesus and the reputation of our church in the world. As you permitted Job to be tested and tried, we pray that in our trials and tribulations that you will deliver us with your mighty strong arm. We know you are able to save to the uttermost. Your arm is not so short that it cannot reach us, nor is it weak that it cannot rescue us from all evil, even the self inflicted kind. Lord, whatever we are going through today, you see and understand and it does not take you by surprise. Rescue us and save us and deliver us from evil in Jesus name Amen.

Day Seven

For thine is the kingdom, and power and glory forever. AMEN.
Holy Father, our Lord Jesus Christ reminded us that our prayers were always heard by you. That nothing escapes your notice and all things work together in your plan, for the good of those who love you and are called according to your purposes. Today we are reminded that you answer our prayers in two ways; either "Yes" or "I have a better plan." Because you are sovereign over all and have all power and authority, we know that whatever we ask of you, you hear and you are able to answer even our most fleeting prayer with a word. We know that whatever answer you give is for our good. It is so wonderful to rest in this blessed assurance. You are King of Kings and Lord of Lords and beside you there is no other. Yours is the Kingdom and power and glory forever.
AMEN

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