

Prayer-Part Seven-Lord, Teach Us How to Pray

The first prayer we learn after “Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep” is what we call “The Lord’s Prayer.” The one we quote is in the sixth chapter of Matthew (Mtt.6:9-13), given as part of the “Sermon on the Mount”, as Jesus is giving his teaching on prayer beginning at Mtt. 6:5. But there is a version given in Luke that is Jesus response to the disciples request “Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.” This prayer is a model for us and the elements within the prayer should be a part of our prayers to the Lord.

The scripture focus will be the following: Matthew 6:5-15 and Luke 11:1-13

Our Father which art in heaven – This speaks to a new and intimate relationship between those who receive the salvation of the Lord and God. In the Old Testament, God was rarely addressed as father, but because of the mediation of Jesus Christ, we can now call God father. Romans 8:12-17 indicates that we who are now born of the spirit, led by the spirit, and, thus, are his sons and daughters, we can now call him ABBA Father. Restored relationship which was broken in the Garden of Eden.

Hallowed be thy name – God’s name stands for him, so, God our Father is holy, sanctified, to be praised and revered, especially by those who call him father. Praise, worship, adoration to the Lord.

Thy kingdom come – We pray that God reigns, directing our lives as we surrender to him and invite him daily to exercise his right to reign, being now on the throne of our hearts. It is also prayer that anticipates the government that the Lord will establish over all the earth in the end times. Here, we give the Lord our “Yes Lord.”

Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. – This is the goal of our prayer, that we would be praying God’s plan, God’s agenda, God’s will, as he reveals it to us through his holy word and by his spirit. And we pray his will be done even when it has not been revealed to us.

Give us this day our daily bread – give us day by day all the things we need to live, food, shelter, clothing, health, etc. This shows our dependence on the Lord, and speaks again to relationship. He is our father who provides all things, and we thank him.

And forgive us our debts (sins, trespasses), as we forgive our debtors – We ask God to forgive us so that there is nothing between “Our Souls and Our Savior.” Forgive us, wash us, that our relationship will be intact. But we also know that it is important to God our Father that our relationships with one another also be intact, so we must forgive others, and ask for forgiveness.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil – help us by your power to be victorious in every trial, test, temptation. And deliver us from all the works of the evil one.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever, Amen – doxology- Praise!

I Chronicles 29:11 (part of David’s prayer after making provision for God’s temple)