



**LORD TEACH US
TO PRAY**

**A Bible Study on
the Lord's Prayer**

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HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET:

One of the best statements ever made by Christ's disciples was the simple phrase, "Lord, teach us to pray" (Lk.11:1). Jesus responded to this request by giving His disciples a beautifully simple pattern to follow in their prayer lives. He was not instructing them to repeat the exact same words over and over in what He called "vain repetitions" (Mat.6:7). Think of how you would feel if a friend simply repeated the same exact words over and over to you! Although it is not wrong to recite these God-inspired words thoughtfully and prayerfully, Christ's intention was to give these words to the twelve (and to us) as a model to help them to pray "after this manner" (Mat.6:9), or according to this pattern.

This model prayer, which has come to be known as "The Lord's Prayer" is recorded twice in the gospels – Lk. 11:1-4 and Mat. 6:9-13. This booklet is a study on the larger section of Matthew 6:5-15, and is broken down into three sections of study, the first two being foundational pre-requisites for prayer, and then the third section giving a practical pattern to follow as we pray.

1st – **THE PERVERSION OF PRAYER** (Mat.6:5-8)

Christ's strong exhortation on how NOT to pray.

2nd – **THE PERSON OF PRAYER** (Mat.6:9-13)

A look at the "kind of person" whose prayers are effective.

3rd – **THE PATTERN OF PRAYER** (Mat.6:9-15)

How to use Christ's pattern in our personal prayer lives.

I encourage you to use this booklet as a tool to help you "think-through" each of the above sections of Christ's teaching on prayer, and especially to begin to use the third section in a practical way in your prayer life. There will also be much value in reading the many other Bible references listed in the study. They will help to "flesh out" and further explain the model prayer. One final thought is to consider going through this study together with a friend and to discuss it together. A good way to begin would be to read through the model prayer (listed on the next page) several times, and then start to work through the study. Some brief answers to many of the questions in this study are provided on page 8, but try to answer each question thoughtfully before looking at the answers in the back.

THE MODEL PRAYER

⁵ And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward.

⁶ But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

⁷ But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

⁸ Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

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.

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.

- Matthew 6:5-15 KJV

LORD TEACH US TO PRAY

PATTERN OF PRAYER THAT JESUS GAVE

(Matthew 6:5-15)

I. **THE PERVERSION OF PRAYER** (Matthew 6:5-8)

(How NOT to pray.)

- (v.5) What is the wrong motivation for prayer that Jesus refutes?

Why are those that pray this way called "hypocrites?"

What is "the reward" that they have already?

- (v.6) How does the instruction of this verse sharply contrast the error addressed in v. 5?

Is Jesus condemning all public or group prayer?

(See Acts 4:24; Matthew 18:20; 2 Chronicles 6:12ff; Matthew 14:19)

- (v.7) Why are vain (empty) repetitions offensive to our heavenly Father? (See 1 Kings 18:26-29; Acts 19: 28-34 for examples of vain repetition.)

Is it wrong to repeat the same prayer request more than once? (See Matthew 26:39-44; 2 Corinthians 12:7-9; Luke 18:1-8)

How important to God is the length of your prayers? (How can we obey 1 Thessalonians 5:17?)

What are some specific times that you should pray?

Mathew 26:41 _____

James 5:13 _____

Hebrews 4:16 _____

Psalm 55:17 _____

- (v.8) How can you avoid thoughtless repetition in your prayers? (See 1 Corinthians 14:15, 19, 32)

Should this diminish the role of the Holy Spirit in your prayer life? (See Romans 8:26-27)

If God already knows your needs, why bother praying?

II. **THE PERSON OF PRAYER** (Matthew 6:9-13)

(The "kind of person" whose prayers are effective)

- A. One crucial pre-requisite to effective prayer is to be in a right relationship with God. Match each of the phrases taken from the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) with the corresponding relationship that is important to have with the Lord for effective prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

- _____ 1) "Our Father"
- _____ 2) "Hallowed be thy name"
- _____ 3) "Thy kingdom come"
- _____ 4) "Thy will be done"
- _____ 5) "Give us this day our daily bread"
- _____ 6) "forgive us"
- _____ 7) "lead us not into temptation"

RELATIONSHIP TO GOD

- a) Master-Servant
- b) Savior-Sinner
- c) Guide-Pilgrim
- d) Father-Child
- e) Sovereign-Subject
- f) Giver-Recipient
- g) Deity-Worshipper

- B. Another important pre-requisite to effective prayer is to have a proper attitude toward God. Match each of the phrases taken from the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) with the corresponding attitude that is important to have for effective prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

- _____ 1) "Our Father"
- _____ 2) "Hallowed be thy name"
- _____ 3) "Thy kingdom come"
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- _____ 5) "Give us this day our daily bread"
- _____ 6) "forgive us"
- _____ 7) "lead us not into temptation"

ATTITUDE TOWARD GOD

- a) Dependence
- b) Reverence, Worship
- c) Family Devotion
- d) Penitence
- e) Humility
- f) Submission, Obedience
- g) Loyalty, Longing

- C. Identify the reasons given in the following Scriptures as to why some prayers are not heard.

Proverbs 28:9 (see 1 John 3:22)
(see John 15:7)

James 4:3 (see Psalm 106:15)
(see 1 John 5:14-15)

James 1:6-7 (see Matthew 21:22)
(see Hebrews 11:6)

Psalm 66:18 (see Psalm 139:23)
(see 1 John 1:8-9)

Matthew 6:14-15 (Matthew 5:23-24)
(see Ephesians 4:31-32)

1 Peter 3:7 (see Ephesians 5:25)

James 4:2 (see Matthew 7:7-8)

III. **THE PATTERN OF PRAYER** (Mat.6:9-15)

(How to use the Lord's Prayer in our personal prayer lives)

Note: Use this section for personal worship, reflection and self-examination as you pray.

A. FOCUS ON OUR FATHER (vv. 9-10)

1. His Person

a. "Our Father..."

Think upon the intimacy of communicating with the One who is your loving heavenly Father! Romans 8:15 reminds us that we can address Him as "Abba, Father" which means "Daddy, Father" (see Galatians 4:6). He loves you as His dear child and wants you to have only what's good for you (Matthew 7:11; Psalm 37:4; 84:11).

b. "which art in heaven..."

Think also upon the awesomeness of approaching the God of heaven as He sits upon His throne in holiness and righteousness. (See Matthew 5:34-35). Consider Isaiah's response when he saw the Lord on His throne (Isaiah 6:1-8) and the worship around His throne in Heaven (Revelation 4). **According to Hebrews 10:19-22, how close to the presence of God can we come because of Christ's shed blood? (See also Hebrews 4:16). Is this access a privilege or a right?

c. "Hallowed be thy name..."

In Jewish thought one's name was indicative of his character. Take some time to dwell upon the greatness of the One to whom you pray by rehearsing in your mind HIS HOLINESS, LOVE, GOODNESS, MERCY, GRACE, FAITHFULNESS, RIGHTEOUSNESS, OMNIPOTENCE, OMNISCIENCE, OMNIPRESENCE...

Consider the marvelous promise of Jesus that our requests will be granted if we pray "in Jesus' name". (John 14:13-14; 15:16)

**What does it mean to pray "in Jesus' name?"

**Is this phrase a magic formula?

2. His Program – "Thy kingdom come..."

Take some time to think upon Christ's soon return

for you (Titus 2:13).

** Does the nearness of His return affect the way you order your life? (1 John 3:2-3).

Examine your heart to make sure you are truly hungry and thirsting for righteousness (Mathew 5:6) and longing for the day that Christ will establish His perfect reign upon the earth.

**Can you pray the prayer of Revelation 22:20b with all your heart?

**Do you pray for souls to be added to the kingdom, by name?

3. His Plan – “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven...”

In Heaven right now, God is perfectly recognized for Who He is – King of Kings & Lord of Lords. Thus, He is continually praised and swiftly obeyed (Psalm 103:20; Revelation 4). By contrast, the earth is presently under the rule of Satan and is in a state of rebellion toward God. Thus, to pray this way is to “make waves” in the current world system that sinful man enjoys.

Do you genuinely hunger to know and do His will for **your life – even if it may not line up with your present plans and goals? (See Psalm 37:4) Reflect upon a major reason that God left you, His child, here in this sinful world. (See Matthew 5:13-16; Philippians 2:15)

B. FOCUS ON OUR FAMILY (vv. 11-15)

1. Our Provision – “Give us this day our daily bread...”

The God who promises to supply all your needs (Matthew 6:26, 30; Philippians 4:19), desires for you to ask Him to supply these needs on a daily basis. Take some time now to examine your heart for genuine contentment (1 Timothy 6:6-8). Prayerfully “count your blessings” and give thanks for God’s provision. Prayerfully survey the needs of others in God’s family and purpose to let God meet a need through you.

Note the progression of the prayer to this point: If you are striving for His glory and His will, you can boldly ask for your needs to be met, knowing He will provide (Matthew 6:33).

2. Our Pardon – “and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. . .”

You are asking God to deal with you in the same way you deal with others. (Matthew 7:2)

Examine yourself for unconfessed sin (Psalm 66:18; Psalm 139:23; 1 John 1:8-9). Be quick to repent. Are your relationships right with all other believers? Ask God to show you wrong attitudes toward others, and be quick to forgive. (Matthew 6:14-15; Mark 11:25; Ephesians 4:32)

3. Our Protection – “and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil...”

Recommit yourself right now to resist sin with a holy passion (Ephesians 6:10-18). Purpose to forsake sin and to stay away from temptations to evil (James 1:13-15; 2 Timothy 2:22). Ask God to keep you alert to the schemes of the devil who will continually try to trip you up (1 Peter 5:8). Review in your mind 1 Corinthians 10:13. Consider also how Jesus prays for His followers in John 17:15-17.

C. CONCLUDE WITH A BURST OF PRAISE AND TRUST (V.13b)

“For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen!!”

Get up off your knees with the peace that passes all understanding. You have cast your cares upon Him, and you can be assured He cares for You!!

****Go serve now with enthusiasm and joy!****

Answers to Section I – “THE PERVERSION OF PRAYER”

- (v.5) – The praise of men; self-glory
– “Hypocrite” means actor or pretender (their motives are false).
– The praise & recognition of men is their reward.
- (v.6) – “Closet” is a private inner room. (No one but God would see them pray)
– No, public or group prayer is fine as long as the person’s heart and motives are right.
- (v.7) – He is a personal God who deserves thoughtful and meaningful prayers. He cannot be manipulated by repetition of same words.
– Not wrong to repeat same request more than once as long as it is done with thought, worship and a heart of submission to God’s will.
– God is not impressed by lengthy prayers. It is not wrong to pray long private prayers (Jesus prayed all night at times), but the length of a prayer does not guarantee its effectiveness.
– 1 Thessalonians 5:17 – Talk to God in prayer throughout the day, spontaneously. His eye is on us continually.
– Specific times you should pray?
(Look up verses for answers)
- (v.8) – By praying with our minds (thoughtfully, intelligently) as well as with our spirits (fervently, passionately).
– No, Holy Spirit will be interceding for us regardless.
– He commands us to pray; It helps us stay dependent on Him; He answers our prayers; He loves us.

Answers to Section II – “THE PERSON OF PRAYER”

A (1 to 7) – “Relationship to God”
d, g, e, a, f, b, c

B (1 to 7) – “Attitude Toward God”
c, b, g, f, a, d, e

C – Reasons Prayers Not Heard
(Look up verses for answers)

Section III – “THE PATTERN OF PRAYER”

(This section is mostly a prayer guide to follow)

THE FIRST PRAYER GOD PROMISES TO HEAR

ARE YOU SURE GOD IS YOUR FATHER?

In Luke 18:10-14 Jesus tells a parable of two men who were praying. The first was a very religious man who prayed with a self-righteous spirit. In his prayer he mentioned all the religious deeds that he had done, and thanked God that he was not like the other man who was praying. The other man was not very religious at all, but he humbly recognized that in his own merit he was unworthy to even speak to God. He simply prayed from his heart, "***Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner.***" These seven words have come to be known as the sinner's prayer. They provide an example of what a person needs to do to begin a relationship with God. The very first prayer God promises to hear is such a heartfelt cry for mercy and forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ and His shed blood on the cross.

In this study on the Lord's Prayer you have surely noticed that the first words of the model prayer are the words "Our Father." For someone to truly call God "Father" requires being born into His family, and that can only happen through a personal trust in Christ. John's gospel tells us that "As many as received Him (Jesus Christ), to them He gave the right to become the children of God..." (John 1:12)

The Bible tells us that there is only one way to become God's child - by receiving Jesus as your Lord and Savior. This is a life-changing commitment, and God has made it possible because of what Christ has done for you. The Bible teaches that to enter God's family, you must...

- A – Admit** that you are a sinner in need of salvation from sin (Romans 3:23)
- B – Believe** that Jesus is the Son of God, and that He died and rose again to pay for your sins (Romans 5:8; 6:23)
- C – Call** upon Jesus to be your Savior from sin (Romans 10:9-10,13)

If you understand these truths and recognize your need for salvation from sin through faith in Christ, then you can call on Him to save you, and enter into God's family. If you decide to call upon Jesus to be your personal Savior from sin, or if you desire more information about knowing God and growing in Him, please contact us at:

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