

Prayer Part 2

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Prayer Model of Jesus

Matt 6:5-8

Jesus assumes that the disciples pray. God is more interested in our prayers to Him, rather than impressing other humans. God is all-knowing, yet He still encourages the disciples to pray.

The Lord's Prayer

Matt 6:9-13

This is a profound, yet short prayer.

1. *...Our Father...*

Jesus begins with addressing God as Father, which introduces a deeper relationship than how the Jews viewed God as King. (John 14:8-14)
We can approach God as Father because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. (Matt 27:6)

2. *...In Heaven...*

This speaks of humbling ourselves before God. He is above all authority and He doesn't need anything from anyone. (Rom 11:33)

3. *...Hallowed Be Your Name...*

This is the first of the petitions and these petitions have a specific purpose and a specific order. This petition is about pausing and worshipping the Father before coming to God with a prayer list. (Phil 4:6-8) We should be proud of the name of our Lord.

4. *...Your Kingdom Come...*

This recognises that we must submit our will to God's and seeing His kingdom come.

5. *...Your Will Be Done...*

This is the heart of God's will. However this means that we want God's kingdom to come and that we approve of the kingdom. God's plan and will are independent of us. God's timing is perfect. God's will is revealed to us in the Word; this is the revealed will of God.

1. *...On Earth as it is in Heaven...*

God uses his ambassadors (Christians) to bring Heaven values to Earth. When we pray this statement, we align our will with God's will. God also has a secret will that is not revealed to us. For example, sometimes when we pray

2. *...Give us today our daily bread...*

The language now changes to petitions about us, rather than about God. These are the things that He has already promised to us anyway. (Matt 6:25; Phil 4:19) God understands our basic needs; what our bodies need. Bread in Hebrew refers to all kinds of nutrition; everything to sustain life. This petition encourages us to not anything for granted.

3. *...Forgive us as we forgive our debtors...*

Once God has taken care of our physical needs, Jesus now focuses our

relationship with others and our sin with God. This is not a prayer for salvation or a 'sinners' prayer. The context of this prayer is Jesus talking to believers. Therefore Christians should ask for forgiveness and model forgiveness to others. Note that Jesus assumes that His disciples are still sinners. (Matt 6:14-15; Jesus elaborates on this point). Forgiveness must be total and complete.

4. *...And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil One...*
God does not tempt us to sin (Jam 1:12-13). Example: Joseph was tempted by Potiphar's wife. Joseph did not seek out the temptation (1 Pet 5:8; Satan prowls like a roaring lion). Satan is the accuser (Rev 12:10).

Practical Application

This prayer is not intended to be repeated verbatim. Instead we are meant to be led by the Spirit in prayer. God is more interested in a relationship with Him. The Lord's Prayer sets a pattern for our prayer life.

3 R's to Dealing with Temptation

Recognise the devil's schemes, such as an evil thought.

Refuse the thought.

Resist the devil and he will flee from you. (Jam 4:7)