

## The Lord's Prayer - Matthew 6:9-13

Introduction: Keeping your mind focused in prayer is one of the more difficult tasks of the Christian life. Everyone I have spoken to or heard speak on this subject has pretty much concurred. Jesus taught His disciples how to pray in Matthew 6:5-15 and Luke 11:1-13. In both cases he uses the outline we know as the Lord's Prayer. In Matthew He says, "Pray this way." In Luke "When you pray, say..." Most commentators feel that this is intentional, in Matthew it is more of an outline giving us the hooks on which to hang our prayers by category. In Luke is a prayer to be repeated as He said it. I realize that some in non-Catholic Christianity may object to prayers that are not spontaneous, but I would say if you need to see it this way they can be sort of training wheels for your prayer life. Many reformed people had written prayers though most Protestants did not make a prayer book a part of their liturgy. Anglicans (Episcopal) and Lutherans being the exceptions. However, use of the Lord's Prayer, being from the Scripture, no protestant denomination can refuse. Take into context the rest of Jesus' lesson on prayer and don't babble and repeat words mindlessly. Understand what you are saying and mean it!

I use the Lord's prayer in my prayer time. Sometimes I look at the notes here and others I go through it mentally, but this is most often the thing I use to stay focused in prayer. It will also, as with most things, improve with time spent working at it!

**Our Father Who is in Heaven:** We have been transformed by God from enemies to His children. Thank God for His work in your life and the Salvation you have through His Son Jesus!

- Romans 5:10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.
- Galatians 4:6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"<sup>7</sup> Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

**Hallowed be Your Name:** God's name is HOLY, set apart from sin. Pray that He would help us regard His name as holy and to point other to His holiness!

- Exodus 20:7 "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

**Your kingdom come:** God is the King of His Kingdom and we are His subjects if we are believers. Pray that He would help us to submit to His authority in our lives at all times!

- Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

**Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven:** God's will should be our goal in life, and in heaven it is done immediately and without question. Pray that He would help us to be obedient to Him with a good attitude!

- Ephesians 6:6 not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,

**Give us this day our daily bread:** This is all of our needs being met by God on a daily basis. This should cause us to be thankful for those things He has already given us and pray for our needs with expectation of a positive answer!

- 2 Corinthians 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. 9 As it is written: “He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever.” 10 Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, 11 while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.

**And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors:** Understanding our need for forgiveness is necessary for us to be in a relationship with God, and extending that forgiveness to others is just as important. Pray that you would recognize your sin and be truly repentant as well as for the grace to forgive others!

- 1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- Romans 4:7 “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered; 8 Blessed is the man to whom the LORD shall not impute sin.”
- Matthew 6:14 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.

**Lead us not into temptation:** God does not cause us to sin or even tempt us Himself, but He does allow us to be tempted by the world, the flesh and the devil in order to prove our faith and draw us ever closer to Him. Pray that God would keep you from the temptations that you know you can’t endure without failing, and don’t put yourselves in those places and expect God to deliver you!

- James 1:13 Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

**but deliver us from the Evil:** The way this verse is written in the original Greek language indicates that the word “evil” is a title or a proper name. Many suppose this to be Satan, but as we saw earlier we are tempted by the world, the flesh and the devil. We should pray for protection first from our own sinful desires, then the influences of the world around us and finally from those of the Devil!

- Romans 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.
- 1 John 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world; the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life; is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.
- James 4:7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

**For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever, Amen:** This is just a restating of previous things, That God is the authority, He has the power to execute that authority

and that it will all be for His glory as we live a life of submission and others see Him glorified in our lives! Pray that we can have this attitude in the midst of our daily lives, even when things don't seem to be going right!

- Ephesians 1:11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, 12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.