

# The Lord's Prayer

Adapted from a series of lectures delivered by Pastor Tom Lambelet at the 1999 American Missionary Fellowship Regional Conference held in Rapid City, South Dakota.

## Part 1 – Prayer according to Jesus (Matthew 6:7-9a)

### Introduction

Prayer is often a burden, not a delight.

Jesus knew how to pray.

#### I. How not to pray (Matthew 6:7-8)

Pagans believed repetition persuaded God as apposed to volume of words.

What about persistent praying?

**Luke 18:1-8**

#### II. How to pray (Matthew 6:9-13)

##### A. The Pattern for Prayer

The Lord's prayer is not a group of words to be repeated.

##### B. The Priority in Prayer

There are 2 categories. First 3 petitions say "your"

2<sup>nd</sup> 3 petitions say "us". The priority is God, then our concerns. God centered.

##### C. The Person We Pray To

"*Our* Father which art in heaven"

1. God isn't listening to everybody, just Christians

2. God isn't listening just to me, He listens to all His children.

Don't pray as if I'm the only kid in the family.

This is also a model for corporate prayer.

"Our *Father* which art in heaven"

1. Prayer in its essence is communication between child and his Dad.

Aramaic word used here means Daddy. It's about relationship.

Not a word thing, not a time thing, it's a relationship thing.

2. Prayer is about depending on His care.

Not praying is to exalt ourselves rather than God.

3. Prayer is about submitting to God's authority.

Don't tell God our agenda, submit to His.

4. Prayer is about having confidence in God's love and His goodness.

**Matthew 7:9-11.** God says no because He loves you.

"Our Father *which art in heaven*"

He is located in heaven. He is unimaginably awesome. He is king. He is almighty Jehovah, all powerful, undefiled, uniquely different from creation, yet He is our Daddy.

## Part 2 – Prayer According to Jesus (Matthew 9b) “Hallowed by Thy Name”

### Introduction

The content of our prayer reveals much about us. It tells what is important to us. This reveals that we're focused on ourselves, not the Father.

I. A petition that rebukes our selfish praying

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II. A petition that is expressing the primary concern.

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**Psalm 20:7** We should pray that of God. People should respect God.

If my daughter is asked what is most important to her Daddy and she said “I don't know” I would be disappointed. If she said “I don't care” I would be crushed. We ought to care and we ought to know what God's top priority is.

**Exodus 9:16**

Moses is told about the 7<sup>th</sup> plague of hail. The purpose is given, “my name may be declared in all the earth”.

**Isaiah 63:12-14**

God protects and leads Israel to make Himself “a glorious name”.

**I Samuel 12:20-22**

God will not forsake His people for the sake of His name.

**Isaiah 48:9-11**

God's mercy is “for my name's sake”. He tests Israel “for my own sake”.

**Ezekiel 36:19-24**

The people of Israel had profaned the name of God. But God had concern for His holy name (v21) and “for My holy name's sake” (v22) God will show mercy. God is glorified when “I am hallowed in you before their eyes”. The nations would see Israel hallow the Lord God.

**Ezekiel 39:25**

God shows mercy since he will be “jealous for My holy name”.

**John 12:23, 27, 28**

Jesus died to glorify the name of God (v28) and to glorify Himself (v23)

**II Thessalonians 1:9,10**

Why does Jesus come? He want to be “glorified in His saints” and “admired among all those who believe”.

**Ephesians 1:3-6**

God chose us before time began to “the praise of the glory of His grace”.

People who say God's great purpose is salvation make professions of faith without change.

III. A petition for worship

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It's not about attracting a crowd, entertaining, evangelizing, teaching Bible, etc.

It's about Hallowing God's name. Worship is not authentic in any other way.

IV. A petition for world evangelization

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Missions exist because Hallowing God's name does not exist.

The greatest reason for evangelization is not to deliver people from sin and hell, it is to recruit people who worship God.

V. A petition for all of life.

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Our whole life should honor God.

VI. A petition that brings us the most satisfaction.

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We were made for God's exaltation. It's not about us, it's about Him.

## Part 3 – Prayer According to Jesus (Matthew 6:10)

*“Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”*

Food For Thought: *“Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work.”*  
(Oswald Chambers)

### Introduction

When God’s name is not hallowed, God’s kingdom does not come. So praying for God’s name to be hallowed leads us to pray for the advancement of God’s kingdom. Jesus died in order to advance His kingdom, making citizens out of rebels.

### I. Praying for God’s Kingdom to Advance

#### A. God’s Kingdom is both present and future.

Jesus prayed for both the present and future advancement of God’s kingdom.

**Mark 12:34** shows the present aspect of the kingdom. Part of the kingdom of God was present with Jesus and could have included this man. **Romans 14:16** also show present behaviour in the Kingdom of God. **Luke 22:24-30** show the future aspect of the Kingdom of God. The apostles have not yet sat on thrones judging the 12 tribes of Israel, but they will.

#### B. Life is war.

There is a battle going on. **Ephesians 6:10,13**. Not peacetime, wartime. People fail to pray because they think we are at peace. This is a war fought through prayer. Our attitude in prayer should be war. We live in enemy territory.

**I Peter 5:8-9**

#### C. Prayer is essential to the advancement of God’s kingdom.

Prayer is battlefield communications. Prayer is not preparation for the battle, it is the battle. **Ephesians 6:18-20**. **Matthew 9:37-38**

#### D. Be careful of viewing prayer as a peacetime convenience.

God does not promise to grant selfish requests. Prayer is for the purpose of advancing God’s kingdom. **James 4:3** Prayer is serious business.

### II. Praying for the return of Christ

This is the future aspect of God’s Kingdom. We should pray that Jesus will come soon. At the time Jesus gave this prayer, the kingdom of God was still being offered to Israel, even though parts of that kingdom were in place. **Revelation 5:8-10** The prayers of the saints are involved with the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus. **Revelation 20:4-6** Clearly God’s kingdom coming is the will of God and it will surely happen. We pray for the event which is earth’s future hope.

### III. Praying for God’s will to be done

This is the logical conclusion of praying for God’s kingdom to come. We should pray that people would obey God. **Philippians 1:9-11** Paul prays that they will do the will of God. **Colossians 1:9-10** Paul prays they would understand and then DO the will of God. **I Thessalonians 3:12-13** Doing the will of God in the area of love.

## Part 4 – Prayer According to Jesus (Matthew 6:11)

### “Give us this day our daily bread”

#### Introduction

Prayer is the natural thing for the Christian to do. What is more natural than a child asking his daddy for food?

#### I. A request that is not our first concern.

This is not the first request in the Lord’s prayer. **James 4:3**. Sometimes we ask for daily needs from the wrong motive. **I Corinthians 10:31** All our requests should hallow God’s name.

#### II. A request for our necessities, not luxuries.

Pray for bread, not dessert. Don’t use Macy’s catalog as a prayer book. In our culture, need is a vastly inflated word. Too many of our lives revolve around having stuff.

**Philippians 4:10-13**. Be content with what God has provided and do not desire luxuries.

**I Timothy 6:6-10**. Pray for our needs.

Loving things will stop boldness in its tracks.

#### III. A request that shows the extent of God’s care.

Some only approach God with the “big” things. To God, all things are small. The Lord cares about each little detail of our lives, emotionally, physically and spiritually. He wants to be our only supplier.

#### IV. A request that expresses total dependence on God.

Every day God wants us to depend on Him.

Is God doing a lousy job? Many around the world starve.

##### A. God has not obligated Himself to the reception of food except for His children.

God has made provision for all the world to eat. The problem is too many sinners handle His provision.

##### B. God stops providing daily bread when it’s time to die.

**Job 1:20-21**. God decides when for each one it is time to die.

#### V. A request that becomes an opportunity to share.

This is corporate prayer. The verse does not say “give ME...”, it says “give US...”. If I am given 2 loaves of bread and my brother is given no loaves, then God has provided daily bread for both of us. I can now share. God gave us money to share.

**I Timothy 1:6-19**. Share. Millions die from starvation because sinners will not share what God has provided.

## Part 5 – Prayer According to Jesus (Matthew 6:12)

*“And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.”*

### Introduction

*“Unless you have forgiven others, you read your own death-warrant when you repeat the Lord’s Prayer.”* (Charles Spurgeon) **Matthew 6:14-15**

#### I. Corporate Forgiveness

**Nehemiah 1:1-11** Nehemiah prayed for the sins of his people. We can confess the sins of our church, our nation, our family, our group!

#### II. God Forgiving Us

**Nehemiah 1:1-11** Nehemiah prayed for the sins of his people. We can confess the sins of our church, our nation, our family, our group!

##### A. The Need for forgiveness

**Rom 3:23. Rom 6:23. Hebrews 9:27** We need it before salvation, we need it after salvation.

##### B. God’s Willingness to forgive

**I John 1:9. Luke 15:11-32.** When we confess, God is willing. The prodigal son parable is how God thinks about sin.

##### C. The basis for forgiveness

**I John 2:1-2** God cannot overlook sin. Sin demands death. Jesus died in order that our sins might be forgiven. **Romans 8:34** He continues to forgive.

#### III. We forgive Others

Is this how I want to pray? I could be asking God not to forgive me! Does God’s forgiveness depend on my forgiving others? Works theology? Do I earn my salvation?

1. Forgiveness resists thoughts of revenge. **Romans 12:9**

Justice comes at the cross or at the judgment, but it will come.

2. Forgiveness does not seek to do mischief. **I Thessalonians 5:15**

3. Forgiveness involves telling the forgiven person. **Luke 6:28**

4. Forgiveness grieves at their calamity. **Proverbs 24:17**

5. Forgiveness means we pray for them. **Matthew 5:44**

6. Forgiveness seeks reconciliation. **Romans 12:18**

7. Forgiveness comes to their relief. **Exodus 23:4**

8. Forgiveness is NOT the absence of anger at sin.

9. Forgiveness is NOT the absence of serious consequences.

David’s son still died. Jail is not unforgiving. Spanking is not unforgiving.

10. Forgiveness applied to an unrepentant person

looks very different than when applied to a repentant person

The Bible only applies forgiveness to repentant people.

## Part 6 – Prayer According to Jesus (Matthew 6:13)

*“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:”*

### Introduction

Avoiding temptation is one of life’s greatest struggles. Holiness requires it. To be like Christ requires the avoidance of sin and therefore of temptation.

- I. This request shows God’s power over temptation.  
Clearly if we are to pray that God would lead us not into temptation, He has power to do so. **I Corinthians 10:13.**
- II. This request does not imply God tempts anyone.  
**James 1:13.** God does not tempt. This request might be phrases “Lead us away from temptation”.
- III. Temptation Comes From selfish desires.  
**James 1:13-16.** Clearly stated, temptation comes from our own selfish desires. Seeking pleasure gives room for sin. **I Timothy 6:6-10.** Striving after money gives an opening for temptation.
- IV. Successful endurance of temptation requires hard work.
  - A. Listen to parents and elders.  
**Proverbs 1:8-9.** The context here is avoiding temptation.
  - B. Do not listen to any person who encourage you to sin.  
**Proverbs 1:10-19.** Choosing our friends is extremely important.
  - C. Listen to the Word of God.  
**Psalms 1:1-6.** The things we think about will either inoculate us against temptation or weaken our temptation immune system. TV, radio, books, music: These all powerfully influence our avoiding of temptation. **Luke 8:13**
  - D. Actively and persistently pray.  
**Luke 22:39-46.** Jesus told his disciples to pray to avoid temptation.  
**Colossians 1:13-14.** Paul prayed for other Christian’s character and thanked God for delivering them from evil.
- V. No person can escape temptation without God’s blessing.