

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you. And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. So do not be like them; **for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.** Pray, then, in this way:

“Our Father in heaven” is teaching you to whom to address your prayers—your Father.

With this simple beginning Jesus changed the way we approach God in prayer. In the Old Testament God's people recognized Him as Creator-Father of their nation, but never as their personal Father. No one had ever prayed like Jesus. And now Jesus escorted them into the intimate relationship He had with His Father. In fact, Jesus addressed God only as Father, using the common Aramaic word **Abba** *that any trusting child would call his or her dad.*

“Hallowed be your name” (treated as sacred or holy) is telling you to worship God, and to praise Him *for who He is*. The request “hallowed be your name” comes first in the Lord's Prayer.

Remove the focus from yourself and turn your attention to God. It's about *Him, His* holiness, and *His* work in the world. He is the Almighty. He is holy. He is set apart in His glory above all else.

Recognize the God to whom you pray. **He is a loving Father who invites you into His presence.** He genuinely cares for you. And though you have intimate access to God, do not forget who He is. He is the Almighty. He is holy. He is set apart in His glory above all else. **In your familiarity with God don't lose your reverence.**

Your priority is to pray that the world would see how holy and glorious He is and, as a person who bears His name, your actions should also reflect His holiness. In deep gratitude and respect, set yourself apart from anything that fails to reflect God's character.

“Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” reminds you to pray for God's plan in your life and the world - not your own plan.

Pray for God's will to be done, not for your desires. Invite God to be involved and to accomplish whatever **He** deems necessary in your life and throughout the earth, as He also reigns in heaven. Welcome His rule personally and completely.

“Give us today our daily bread” encourages you to ask God for the things you need every day.

Dependence on God is a daily choice. You must trust Him for your physical needs as well as your relational needs. Proverbs 30:8 says, “Give me neither poverty nor riches; but give me only my daily bread [food that is needful for me today]”

“Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors” reminds us to confess our sins to God and to turn from them, and also to forgive others as God has forgiven us.

Forgiveness always sounds like a great idea—until you’re the one who must forgive! Forgiving someone may be one of the hardest things you ever do, but it is also one of the greatest evidences that you understand the grace God gave you by forgiving you. Only a forgiven and forgiving heart can approach Abba and enjoy His fellowship.

“And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one” is a plea for help in achieving victory over sin and a request for protection from the attacks of the devil.

These words reinforce the reality of spiritual warfare. But the words also remind us of the reality of our position as Abba’s child, relying on His Spirit to strengthen and enable us to resist temptation. First Corinthians 10:13 also assures us that God will not allow us to be tempted beyond what we are able to endure.

Jesus himself had faced temptation to sin. Forty days in the wilderness, haunted by His own physical need and by Satan himself, Jesus’ petition for protection came from personal experience.

“For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.” Amen.

This gives marvelous perspective to Jesus’ meaningful prayer model. David had this same worshipful response when he offered a similar prayer in 1 Chronicles 29:10–13:

“Praise be to you, O LORD, God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.”

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” [Philippians 4:6-7](#)

The Lord's Prayer is an example of how we should be praying. Is there anything wrong with memorizing the Lord's Prayer? Of course not! Is there anything wrong with praying the Lord's Prayer back to God? Not if your heart is in it and you truly mean the words you say. Remember, in prayer, God is far more interested in our communicating with Him and speaking from our hearts than He is in the specific words we use.

As you pray the words of the Lord's Prayer you might expand with your own words...

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Father (Abba), You are holy. Your name is sacred. You are the Almighty and You are sovereign. Thank you for being my Father rather than a distant, uncaring ruler. I need You, Father, right now because I am dealing with _____.

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Father, You know how hard this is and what is best. I pray for Your plan, not my plan. I bear your name and in gratitude I want my actions to reflect Your holiness. Please guide me as I trust in You.

Give us today our daily bread.

Father, I choose to depend on You today. I trust You for my physical needs as well as relationships with others. Specifically, Father, I don't know how I am going to _____. Please meet my need.

Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

I thank you for Your forgiveness. I confess I need to forgive _____ as you have forgiven me for so much more. By Your grace, I gratefully forgive _____ and ask your blessing upon him/her.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.

Please help me overcome the temptation to _____ and help me have victory over this sin. Please protect me from Satan's attacks. I know this is a spiritual battle, but I also know that I am Your child, and I am precious in Your sight. Help me to rely on Your Holy Spirit to strengthen me and to resist temptations.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

I praise You, O Lord God my Father. You are great. The power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty belong to You, O Lord. Everything in the heavens and on earth is Yours, O LORD, and this is Your kingdom. I love and adore You as the one who is over all things. In Your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, my Father God, I give You thanks, and praise Your glorious name."