

The Lord's Prayer

We often return to the Lord's prayer when we aren't sure what to pray for or need some comfort. It is one of the most recognised passages in the bible.

Looking at the context of the prayer it is part of the Beatitudes teaching. Whether or not it was said as part of that teaching or sermon whatever we call it, that is where it comes in our bibles. So, it is part of the big teaching about how to live. Our assumption from that **Jesus wants us to pray as part of our lifestyle.**

While the beatitudes give specific teaching on life, the Lord's prayer as we know it gives us a template to be in contact with God.

Before we look at that passage specifically look what the passage says directly before it. It is about the attitude of prayer.

Mat 6:5 "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

Mat 6:6 But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Mat 6:7 "And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words.

Mat 6:8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Just four quick points here:

1. **V5 you must not be like the hypocrites.** It is about being real in your prayer not showy, not boasting and all that. We are blessed with fabulous public prayers in this church. People who pray openly and honestly with a realness to their prayers. That's our model.
2. **V6 pray to your Father who is in secret.** It's interesting that we talk about corporate prayer, and getting together to pray and hey I say it too, but here Jesus is instructing us to private prayer. As I prepared this I was confronted by it. We have put together a prayer week to be all involved together. Yet Jesus is saying – pray secretly. Not sure where to put that yet.
3. **V7 do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do** Again an interesting statement but remember that this is before the template we get for prayer called the Lord's prayer. No empty phrases, be real.
4. **V8 your Father knows what you need before you ask him.** Now this is weird, if God knows before hand why pray? Well, I figure its called relationship. Prayer is our relating to God. Sure God knows, and is probably working on it as we speak it but He wants us in contact with Him.

After these verse we get the template of the Lord's prayer. So we keep all that in mind as we get into the prayer itself.

It is a fairly basic template. Many have been through it all before but as we come to our week of prayer, it is a good reminder of what God expects from us in our prayers.

The Lord's Prayer

I'll just pull out some ideas here. Notice I am using the King James version. That is because that is what many of us first interfaced with. So it is the familiar statement..

Mat 6:9 Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed

be your name.

Hallowed Be Thy Name

Hallowed means holy or sanctified. God's name is holy, as God is the total image of sanctity. "There is no one holy like the Lord" ([1 Samuel 2:2](#)).

We, as Christians, understand that the God is to be revered and praised above all else. In this petition, we pray that the entire world will recognize the holy name of God as the one true God of all, the Creator and Ruler of the universe.

Mat 6:10 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

. Thy Kingdom Come

This petition is two-fold. First, we pray for the Kingdom of God to take form in the here and now so that we can live in a world characterized by faith, hope, and love. We long to live in God's space and time. So we ask for that to happen now.

I think that's part of what we are asking as a church. To live in God's time and space as church- to be and do church in His kingdom.

Following this is

Thy Will Be Done on Earth as it Is in Heaven

God reigns from Heaven with compassion and justice (look at [Isaiah 30:18](#)). His will is that we praise Him and love one another. We know this because Jesus summarized the entirety of God's Word into two commands — love God with all your heart, soul, and mind and love your neighbor as yourself ([Matthew 22:37-40](#)).

We know God's will for how we interact with one another. Love our neighbour as ourselves.

Mat 6:11 Give us this day our daily bread,

Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread

So, is this just talking about the physical or just talking about the Spiritual? Just as good food nourishes the body, the Good News nourishes the soul.

The Bible instructs that "man shall not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Deuteronomy 8:3).

In this appeal, we pray for spiritual sustenance so that we can have the fortitude to go out into the world and spread His Message through our words and actions. This nourishment comes from the Word of God and from communion with Christ, who is the "bread of life" that comes down from Heaven so that "whoever feeds on this bread will live forever" (John 6:48-58). I also think there is a practicality to it. The people Jesus was talking to needed to know where their next meal was coming from. So it is very holistic. Prayer for our total needs.

Mat 6:12 and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

This section of the Lord's Prayer may be the toughest to pray and follow. However, this request contains much wisdom. While anyone can ask to receive forgiveness, reflecting on the way we forgive others can lead us to patience and grace than can be transformative.

For times when forgiving someone proves especially difficult, the Bible teaches that a good time to extend forgiveness is during prayer when our minds and hearts are united with God (Look at Mark 11:25).

By choosing to replace resentment with forgiveness, we reflect God's love and mercy in our actions. This, in turn, enables us to walk more confidently toward God, who wants our every step to be toward Him. It also allows us to walk with those around us in confidence.

Mat 6:13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

And Lead Us Not into Temptation

Temptation can cause us to sin and lead us away from God in ways that can be cumulative. God doesn't lead us to sin; we do that all on our own because of the free will our Creator gave us. But our God is faithful and promises to provide a way out of any temptation that we may face (1 Corinthians 10:13).

In this supplication, we acknowledge that our free will brings with it human weaknesses. To overcome those weaknesses, we pray here for God to extend His guiding hand over us and grant us the discernment necessary to steer clear of temptation and sin.

But Deliver Us from Evil

This petition covers the many times that we do fall prey to temptation and sin. During these times of entanglement, if we continually seek the Lord, He will answer us and deliver us from all of our fears (Psalm 34:4).

In this appeal, we ask, during those times when we're in temptations path or in compromising situations or just hard spaces, that the Almighty Father will reach down and liberate us from what ever is evil around us. This petition is also one for protection, as we ask God to protect us from the devil's grasp in all future circumstances. Do churches need this protection? You bet. Satan can us good people, even good situations to divert God's people. We need to be aware.

That's why the bible is full of warnings. **1Pe 5:8** Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Mat 6:14 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you,

Mat 6:15 but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Does forgiveness have a consequence? You bet. You don't

forgive then you have to answer to God for it. WE are told to forgive, everyone's trespasses, (Sins? Or just wrong doings??) If we don't then it appears here that God will withhold some forgiveness of yours. Ooh that's tricky. I am sure some will have to work that statement through. It does bear thinking about. Have I forgiven those whom I should? Ok, let's make it corporate: Have we forgiven those who we should as a church? Ouch. We will need to confront that maybe this week in our prayer life.

Now, there is a bit on the end we say but it isn't included in the bible reading. Is it right to say it?

For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

This is a doxology which is included in an early manuscript (Codex Washingtonianus) as early as the 4 -5 century. There are a number of different translations and it is assumed that it could have been the statement some used after the reading of any scripture.

It is a benediction, not necessarily within the template but it finishes off what we have nicely as it turns us back to God's greatness.