

The Lord's Prayer

Pray therefore like this: *Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed (kept holy) be your name. Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven (left, remitted and let go the debts, and given up resentment against) our debtors. And lead (bring) us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

Matthew 6:9-13 Amplified

Also found in part in Luke 11:1-4

The Lord's prayer was given to the disciples upon their request, "Teach us to pray". They had seen first hand the power of Jesus' life poured out in ministries to the physically and spiritually blind, lame and hurting multitudes. We too join that ancient cry, "Teach us to pray", and we ask that the Holy Spirit birth within us a deep desire and passion for prayer. All of the needs of the human heart can be presented to the Father using the Lord's Prayer as an outline. We will discover that the first three parts of the prayer focus on His name, His Kingdom and His will. The next sections are: give us, forgive us, lead us, deliver us. Finally, we return to focus on His kingdom, His power and His glory. We often start prayer with our own needs, but Jesus reversed this order in His model.

Our Father who is in heaven places us at once in the center of the wonderful revelation that Jesus' Father is also our Father ! We are in the same family through our belief in and confession of Jesus as our Lord and Savior. We are joined with believers all over the world as well as those who have gone before in the family of God. Our Christian life and walk is within a community of believers.

We are privileged to use the endearing Hebrew term Abba – Father/Daddy. *“For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship, and by him we cry “Abba” Father. The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.”* Romans 8:15-16 (NIV) Satan cast suspicion on the Abba nature of God in the garden of Eden as he subtly caused Eve to believe a lie about her Abba Father. Mankind's trust in the goodness of Abba has been under attack down through the centuries. The true heart of Abba toward His creation was gloriously revealed at Calvary and sealed with His blood.

Hallowed be your name represents an intense desire that God's name be magnified, set apart, praised, esteemed and adored. We hallow His name by lifting it up, by speaking it during worship with respect. We remind ourselves of His glory. We praise Him for His mighty works. We are positioning ourselves under Him as our sovereign God.

God's character and will for His children are revealed in His names. To know His names is to know His character, His personality, His temperament, His love, His mercy, and His power. *“Those who know your name will trust in you.”* Psalms 9:10 (NIV) The Lord said to Moses, *“I am that I am.”* Exodus 3:14 (KJV) His name was considered too sacred to speak aloud so it was written and pronounced as YHWH (Yahweh) or JHVH (Jehovah). The names reflect what He has promised to be in us, to do for us and through us. They imply His personal, intimate presence. It can be rendered I am with you ready to save and act.

The many separate names of God in the Bible make a wonderful study. For our purposes we will focus on the eight Old Testament names compounded with Jehovah. These correspond to promises made to His people in the New Testament.

Old Covenant

1. Jehovah TsidKenu (sid-Kay-noo)
Jehovah our Righteousness
Jeremiah 23:5,6

This prophesy was fulfilled with the birth of the “Lord of righteousness” Jesus.

2. Jehovah m`Kaddesh (ma-Kah-desh)
Jehovah who sanctifies
Leviticus 20:8

God is the one who makes us holy.

3. Jehovah - Shalom (sha-lom)
Jehovah who brings peace
Judges 6:24

Shalom represents wholeness and harmony with God, contentment and satisfaction. The Lord is peace and we draw on that peace.

4. Jehovah Shammah (sham mah)
Jehovah is there
Ezekiel 48:35B

Overflowing, ever present one. He has sent the comforting, strengthening, interceding, communing

Holy Spirit to us. In Genesis 1:1-2 we see God and the Holy Spirit clearly involved in creation.

5. Jehovah Rapha
Jehovah our healer
Exodus 15:26

Soundness
I Peter 2:24

In this scripture God promised healing in direct relation to walking in His commandments.

6. Jehovah Jireh
The Lord will provide
Jehovah's promises shall be seen
Genesis 22:14

Success - provision
Philippians 4:13

God provided Abraham the ram for sacrifice in place of his son of promise, Isaac.

7. Jehovah Nissi Exodus 17:15
Jehovah is our banner.
Isaiah predicted that a rod would come forth (Jesus) out of the stem of Jesse.
Romans 1:3

Security
Isaiah 11:10

The Living Bible describes a banner of salvation and we know that to be Jesus. Isaiah 11:10

8. Jehovah Rohi
Jehovah my shepherd
Psalms 23

Security
John 10:11
Hebrews 13:20

Jehovah was the shepherd for the children of Israel as He provided places of water, food and rest for them in the wilderness. His protecting and guiding presence was a pillar of cloud by day and a fire by night. Exodus 13:12

As we pray “Our Father in heaven, hallowed (holy) be your name” we reflect on and thank him that: He is our righteousness, He sanctifies us, He gives us peace, He is there, He is the healer, He sees our needs, He is the banner over us, He is our shepherd. We make faith declarations, especially in the names in which He has revealed Himself to us personally, and we ask for revelations on the remaining names.

When we pray “Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven” we are calling God’s will out of heaven onto the earth. We are praying for the establishment of God’s rule and authority on earth. We are praying for: ourselves, our family, church, nation and the world, as well as for the unsaved around us. We pray for the perfect will of God in our lives and ask that strength be given so we might embrace His will. Romans 14:17 (NIV) reminds us that *“The Kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit”*. We see clearly that to pray for righteousness, peace and joy are scriptural ways to pray for His Kingdom to come. This is also the place to pray for God to anoint (empower) our pastors, church leadership and civil authorities. It is also the place to pray for missionaries the world over and the end of time harvest of souls. Psalms 122: 6,7 (NIV) admonishes us to *“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May those who love you be secure. May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels.”*

Thy will be done is reduced personally to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in our lives - surrendering to His perfect plan. It also acknowledges that our Father knows the end from the beginning. He is outside of time as we know it and He sees the culmination of all things. He knows how His purposes can best be fulfilled. We submit ourselves to the Word of God, the will of God and the work of God. Our hearts learn to cry out, “Lord I embrace your will”, (often without knowing what it is). “Anything, anytime, anywhere” should be our heart’s cry. Our charge from scripture is to present ourselves as a living sacrifice - Romans 12:1. When we experience turmoil within it runs up a red flag that we have not fully yielded. We should continue in prayer until we apprehend the peace He has promised.

As we pray give us this day our daily bread we are praying first for bread for physical life, but also for other physical, spiritual, mental and emotional provisions needed to sustain life. We can pray this with confidence when we remember the promise, *“Seek you first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you.”*

Matthew 6:33 (NIV). God has the provision before we have the need. Every need is like a school room in which God is teaching us to trust Him. We remember Jesus is the bread of life. John 6:33 (NIV)

Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors reflects the truth that as bread is the first need of the body, so forgiveness is the first need for the soul. We confess (agree with God) specific sins and receive forgiveness. We reflect on Calvary and the blood sacrifice Jesus took to the throne of God to atone for our sins. We see our sins piled on Him and causing Him great suffering on the cross. We express our heart felt gratitude and we walk in the forgiveness He extends. I John 1:7-10 describes this and calls it “walking in the light”.

As the extreme sacrifice Jesus made is seared into our spirits we make a decision to respond with love and forgiveness to those who have offended us. We release them into God’s hands and determine to live out of the agape love God places within our hearts as we lay down control and release the offender. We are not to nurse or rehearse the grievances, but let them go. *“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other just as Christ Jesus forgave you.”* Ephesians 4:32 (NIV) We set our will to walk in forgiveness. Make a faith declaration of Matthew 5:44 (NIV) *“Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”* Forgiveness is a command and an act of obedience. It is a decision and NOT a feeling or emotion. We make a decision to forgive and ask the Lord to take care of the emotions as we surrender the problem to Him.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one is our cry to keep ourselves off paths that would cause us to stumble in our Christian walk. Temptation is everything that causes us to want to act independently of God. In Greek one of the words for trial is the same as the word for temptation- perasmos - which has resulted in differing translations in the English Bibles. James 1:13 tells us God doesn’t tempt us. He does allow trials which are part of our training in righteousness. A simple way of stating this prayer is *“don’t allow trials that will overwhelm me and pull me off my Christian path.”* I Corinthians 10:13 promises He will not allow us to be tested beyond what we can endure.

We remind Satan we have on the armor of God. This is our hedge of protection along with a declaration of the power of the blood. We know that the armor and the blood represent Jesus and His righteousness covering us. We remember to follow Jesus’ pattern in the wilderness and quote out loud the

specific word of God (applicable to the situation) thus defeating Satan.

For yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever concludes the Lord’s Prayer. Just as we began with hallowing and exalting the Lord we conclude by ascribing all sovereignty, all might, and all majesty to Him.

As we pray we find ourselves, by faith, standing and absorbing the light of God. In the natural world we absorb SUN light as we stand or sit in the SUN. In the supernatural we absorb SON light as we are bathed in the divine light of the SON. Our worries and cares are placed under His dominion and our burdens are left at His feet. The more we pray, the more naturally we find an inner quietness and strength. We experience a deep sense of being connected to our source and an assurance arises from within us that “all is well”, even during the dark storms of our life. The magnitude of our cares and problems recede as we meditate on the power and the glory of God.

Our hearts swell with the scripture “Praise be to you, O Lord, God of our Father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Yours, Oh Lord, is the greatness and the power and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, Oh 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 thanks, and praise your glorious name.”

I Chronicles 29:10-13 (NIV)

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