

The Lord's Prayer as a *Prayer Guide*

Lord, teach us to pray

By Rufus Harris

The prayers in Matthew 6:9-13 and in Luke 11:2-4 have been mistakenly called "The Lord's Prayer". Actually these are prayers Jesus used to teach his disciples how to pray. They are not taught to learn by memory; that is, to just recite. These prayers actually lay out two things:

1. How we are to approach our God in prayer and...
2. The specifics of what we are to talk to our Father about.

Important here also, we are truly taught the "Lord's Prayer" if we look at the examples of prayer in the personal life of the Lord Jesus.

This study is not exhaustive. It is just the tip of the iceberg. There is so much more and it is wonderful.

All quoted scripture herein are from the New International Version (NIV) of the Bible.

Matthew 6:9-13

"This, then, is how you should pray:

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'

For yours is the Kingdom, the power and the glory forever.

Luke 11:2-4

2 He said to them, "When you pray, say:

"Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. 3 Give us each day our daily bread. 4 Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation."

The topics which are illustrated in Jesus' teaching on prayer are:

- OUR FATHER - OUR RELATIONSHIP TO GOD
- GOD'S NAME – THAT IS HIS CHARACTER AND AUTHORITY
- HIS KINGDOM COME ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN
- HIS WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN
- OUR DAILY NEEDS
- FORGIVING AS WE WANT TO BE FORGIVEN
- TEMPTATION
- AND DELIVERANCE FROM EVIL

OUR FATHER - OUR RELATIONSHIP TO GOD

If you have welcomed what Jesus has done for us and you believe in his name (that is his character and his authority) or you believe that Jesus is the Christ you are born of God. The God of the universe is your Father!

John 1:10-13

10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God- 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

1 John 5:1-2

5:1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well.

Having God as our Father has its benefits. We can ask and receive; seek Him and find Him; Knock on His door and He opens it.

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Matt 7:7-11

7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

9 "Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

Most religions teach that God is unapproachable, yet our Father wants to give His Spirit to us! He wants to actually live in us. All we have to do is ask Him.

Luke 11:13

13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

We can approach our Father freely to find what we need when we need it.

Heb 4:14-16

14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are-yet was without sin. 16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

We are to approach the God of the Universe as our Father.

GOD THROUGH CHRIST JESUS HAS GIVEN US PRIVILEGE TO COME BEFORE HIM

Hebrews 4:14-16; 10:19-23;

GOD AS OUR FATHER

John 1:12-13; I John 5:1; Eph 1:5-6; Rom 8:15-17; Gal 4:4-7; Isaiah 64:8; Matthew 7:8-11

HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME

Devoted or consecrated to sacred purposes are our Father's and Jesus' character and authority.

NAME = CHARACTER & AUTHORITY **CHARACTER**

Jesus is the Messiah of God

The Whole book of Matthew

Messiah = Christ = Anointed

The Wonder Worker Mark 6:2

The Friend of sinners and outcasts Luke 19:10

The Son of God John 1:1-14

The Son of Man John 2:1-10

The Divine Teacher John 3:2-21

The Soul Winner John 4:7-29

The Great Physician John 5:1-9

The Bread of Life John 6:32-58

The Water of Life John 7:37

The Defender of the Sinner John 8:3-11

The Light of the World John 9:1-39

The Good Shepherd John 10:1-16

The Prince of Life John 11:1-44

King John 12:12-15

The Servant John 13:1-10

The Consoler John 14:1-3

The True Vine John 15:1-16

The Giver of the Holy Spirit John 16:1-15

The Model Sufferer John 18:1-11

The Uplifted Savior John 19:16-19

The Conqueror of Death John 20:1-31

The Restorer of the Penitent John 21:1-17

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AUTHORITY

All Authority given to Jesus

Matthew 28:18

Jesus taught as one who had authority.

Matthew 7:29; Mark 1:27

Jesus has authority over evil spirits.

Mark 1:27

Jesus given authority to judge men

John 5:27

The increase of Jesus' government equals no end. Isaiah 9:7

Jesus has authority over nature and angels. Matthew 8:27; 1Peter 3:22

Jesus is able to pardon sin. Matthew 9:6

Jesus, because God was with him, worked wonders. Acts 10:38

Jesus' authority demonstrated by his resurrection. Romans 1:4; 1Corinthians 15:19

The Son is an exact representation of His Majesty. Hebrews 1:3

WHAT IS HIS CHARACTER AND AUTHORITY (NAME)?

- **My Savior** - Matthew 1:21; Acts 13: 28-39; Col 1:19-20; Acts 4:12
- **My Redeemer** - Isaiah 63:16; **1Pe 1:18-21**
- **My Righteousness** - Ex 31:12-13; Lev 20:7-8; Jer 23:6; 1Cor 1:30-31; Phil 3:7-9; **2Cor 5:21**
- **Is Peace** - Judges 6:24; **2Cor 5:18-21**
- **Is There** - Isaiah 43:2; Deuteronomy 20:1; **Matthew 18:20; 28:19-20; Heb 13:5;** Also, Gen 31:3; Ex 3:12; 29:45; 33:14; Is 43; Deut 20:1-4
- **Who heals** - Exodus 15:26; **Isaiah 53:4-5; Matt 8:16-17; Gal 3:13-14**
- **Will Provide** - Genesis 22:14; Psalm 37:25-26; **Matt 6:24-33;**
- **My Shepherd** - Psalm 23; Isaiah 40:11; **John 10:10-16**
- **My Banner** - Exodus 17:15; **2Cor 1:10-11; Phil 1:18-19**
- Isaiah 9:6 **Wonderful Counselor; Mighty God; Prince of Peace; Everlasting Father**

YOUR KINGDOM COME

- **THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD'S KINGDOM PROCLAIMED**
Mark 1:14; Luke 4:43; 8:1; Luke 9:2; Acts 1:3; Acts 8:12; 20:25; 28:23
- **KINGDOM ANALOGIES:**
Matthew 13:31; Luke 13:18-20; Mark 4:26

WHAT IS GOD'S KINGDOM?

Luke 17:20-21; Rom 14:17-18; John 18:33-37 1 Cor 4:20; 2 Tim 1:7; Dan 2:44; Revelation 11:17; 12:10

YOUR WILL DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

He has asked his disciples to pray for it!

We are to pray for it (Matthew 6:10) **required them to do it** (Matthew 7:21; 12:50; Mark 3:35; Luke 12:47-48; Romans 12:2) **and even to understand it.** (Ephesians 5:15-21).

HIS SPECIFIC WILL (The General Stuff):

Not willing that any of the sheep be lost (Matthew 18:14).

I am to obey those who have authority over me as Christ (Ephesians 6:5-8; 1Peter 2:13-25).

The Greatest Commandment

1st **Love the Lord my God** with all my heart and with all you soul and with all you mind...

2nd **Love my neighbor as myself...** (Matthew 22:37-38).

We are to be always joyful; pray continually; **give thanks in all circumstances; FOR THIS IS GOD'S WILL FOR US IN CHRIST JESUS** (1Thessalonians 5:16).

Do good and share with others (Hebrews 13:16).

Place your will within my heart (Psalm 40:8).

Pray to be taught God's will (Psalm 25:4-5).

GIVE US TODAY OUR DAILY BREAD

Father, give us today what we need physically, emotionally and spiritual.

The desire should to be rich toward God: Luke 12:14-21

How God takes care of His creation: Matthew 6:25-34

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Man does not live by bread alone: Matthew 4:4

The temptation of the rich: 1Timothy 6:6-10

The problem with having too much or too little: Proverbs 30:7-9

FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS AS WE HAVE FORGIVEN OUR DEBTORS

Forgiveness conditional: Acts 13:38-40; Ephesians 1:7-14; 1John 1:7-10; Luke 6:37-38; Ephesians 4:32-32; Colossians 3:13-14; Matthew 6:12

We must:

- **Believe**
- **Hear and believe the word of truth**
- **Confess our sins**
- **Forgive those who sin against us**

How many times should we forgive? Matthew 18:21-22

How we practically can do this: Romans 12:1-2; Psalm 51:10; Ezekiel 18:31-32; 36:25-27; Romans 13:14; 2Corinthians 5:17-18; Ephesians 1:18-21; 4:21-24; Colossians 3:5-11

AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION...

This phrase literally means "and do not drag us into temptation". Right off the bat here I do not believe that one has to ask our loving, heavenly Father to "please not drag me into temptation". This would be like a parent telling a child, "See the beautiful glow of the burner on the electric stove, you should touch it." That would be ludicrous. I believe this is a passage which loses something in its translation. Other scripture bears where our temptations proceed; how the Father has our back; and we can truly serve God. See James 1:13-16; 1Corinthians 10:13; and Hebrews 9:14.

Temptation is something that attracts, especially with the promise of pleasure or reward: allurements, bait, come-on, enticement, inducement, inveiglement, invitation, lure, seduction.

Examples from scripture:

Gen 3:6; 4:5-8; 2Samuel 11 and 12

The scripture uses the term temptation quite broadly. Read: Gal 4:14; 1 Peter 4:12-18; Luke 22:28; James 1:2-3; 1 Peter 1:6-9; James 1:12; Mark 14:38; Luke 22:40; Matt 26:36-42; Heb 3:7-9

Again the Lord promises His help! 1Cor 10:13

BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL

Remember those before us and how they received deliverance:

David 1Samuel 17:36-51; the apostle Paul 2Corinthians 1:8-11; 2Timothy 4:16-18; How we are freed to win: Hebrews 2:14-15; Ps 34:19; 2Cor 4:16-18

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