

# THE LORD'S PRAYER

PASTOR STEVE WEDNESDAY DEVOTIONAL 6-5-2019

This is how we should pray (this is NOT WHAT we should pray). Eugene Peterson in *The Message* puts the Lord's Prayer into contemporary language that helps us understand what the Lord is teaching:

With a God like this loving you, you can pray very simply. Like this:

*Our Father in heaven, reveal who you are.*

*Set the world right; Do what's best — as above, so below.*

*Keep us alive with three square meals.*

*Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others.*

*Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil.*

*You're in charge!*

*You can do anything you want!*

*You're ablaze in beauty!*

*Yes. Yes. Yes.*

(THE MESSAGE © 2002 by Eugene H. Peterson)

1. *Our Father in heaven, reveal who you are.* When we come to prayer, we want to begin by asking the Lord to reveal who He is. We want to focus on Him. Learn to practice "being" in the presence of God. Psalm 100:4 *Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise. Be thankful unto him, and bless his name.*

2. *Set the world right; Do what's best — as above, so below.* Commit to God's will and purposes. This is our acknowledgment that God is God. Pray for God's will to be done in every area of your life. This is where we tell the Lord; God, do whatever You need to do in my life. Romans 12:2 *Offer yourself as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing to him. This is the true worship that you should offer.*

3. *Keep us alive with three square meals.* Ask the Lord to provide for your needs. What needs do we pray about? Every one of them. There is nothing too great for God's power and there is nothing too insignificant for His concern. Philippians 4:19 *God will supply all of my needs from His riches in glory because of what Christ Jesus has done for us.*

4. *Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others.* Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal every sin. Ask God to forgive your sins: *Examine me, O God, and know my mind; test me, and discover my thoughts. Find out if there is any evil in me* (read Psalm 139)

Confess each sin specifically. Sometimes we like to get away with confession of sin by just saying, forgive me all my sins however we have committed those sins individually and so we must ask for forgiveness individually. Proverbs 28:13 *You will never succeed in life if you try to hide your sins. Confess them and give them up. Then God will show mercy to you.*

Make restitution to others when necessary. Matthew 5:23-24 *When you remember your brother has something against you, go at once to make peace with him, then come back and offer your gift to God.*

By faith, accept God's forgiveness. 1 John 1:9: *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins, and purify us from all unrighteousness.* When we talk about forgiveness, you need to accept the fact that you don't have to live with guilt. It can be forgiven and wiped clean.

5. *Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil.* Pray for others. 1 Timothy 2:1 *Pray much for others; plead for God's mercy upon them, give thanks for all he is going to do for them.* An important part of prayer is to remember that the Lord is working in the lives of the people we are praying for even when we can't see it. Scripture teaches us to pray much and plead for God's mercy. Give thanks for all He is going to do. Be assured that whoever it is you're praying for, God is working. We are to pray until God has changed us, changed the situation, or changed the focus of the prayer. God's answers come in one of three ways: NO or YES or WAIT

6. *You're in charge! You can do anything you want! You're ablaze in beauty!* Yes. Yes. Yes. Ask God for spiritual protection. We, as believers, face spiritual battles and Satan wants to defeat us through temptation and fear. 1 John 4:4 *The Spirit who is in you is more powerful than the spirit who is in those who belong to the world.*

With prayer and fasting,  
Pastor Steve