

What every Christian Ought To Know. How To **PRAY** (With **POWER**)



- (Matt. 6:9-13) **“After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. 10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.”**

- This entire prayer is set up to ***“GLORIFY GOD.”***
- ***“Our Father, which art in heaven,”*** that’s **GOD’S PATERNITY.**
- ***“Hallowed be thy name,”*** that’s **GOD’S PRIORITY.**
- ***“Thy kingdom come,”*** that’s **GOD’S PROGRAM.**
- ***“Thy will be done,”*** that’s **GOD’S PURPOSE.**
- ***“Give us this day our daily bread,”*** that’s **GOD’S PROVISION.**
- ***“Forgive us our debts,”*** that’s **GOD’S PARDON.**
- ***“Lead us not,”*** that’s **GOD’S PROTECTION.**
- ***“For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.”*** that’s **GOD’S PRE-EMINENCE.**

We Must be Satisfied with God's Provisions. #5

- **Now notice with me verse 11**, a simple, familiar phrase. **The petition: “GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD.”**
- The word **“BREAD”** opens up to us the **simplicity, commonness, and power** of this petition, and yet suggests to us a deep and profound meaning that demands our careful study.
- As I began to examine this thought, I realized that as American's we are unlike many countries in that we throw more food away than some consume.
- When you come to the statement, **“Give us this day our daily bread,”** it may at first seem a little irrelevant to us. Think about it, when was the last time you prayed, **“Lord, I plead with You to provide for me a meal.”**

- Christ is presenting here the **proper way to pray**, the **proper pattern for praying**. And in this very simple prayer, we have all of the necessary ingredients for prayer, if you want to pray according to His standard. And one of the elements of praying is to pray for our daily bread. Now, that doesn't assume that we have it or don't have it. It's just there, and we have to deal with it as it is.
- But in this prayer, we noted first of all **two sections**: the **first** one dealing with **GOD**, and His **GLORY**. The **second** one dealing with **MAN**, and his **NEED**. First we saw **three requests**: ***"Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. And thy will be done,"*** and those focused on **GOD AND HIS GLORY**. Then we see **three other requests** focusing on man and his need: ***"Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."*** God, then, is the **SUPREME ISSUE** here, and not until God is in the proper perspective can man pray properly about his own needs. Keep that in mind.

- Don't forget (Jn. 14:13) ***“Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”***
- Notice these three petitions that give God opportunity to glorify Himself. First of all:
 1. ***“Give us this day our daily bread,”*** This speaks of **“PHYSICAL life.”**
 2. ***“And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.”*** This speaks of the **“MENTAL life.”**
 3. ***“Lead us not into temptation, deliver us from evil,”*** This speaks of **“SPIRITUAL life.”**
- **Bread**, that's our **physical life**. **Forgiveness**, that frees our mind from the anxiety and the pain of guilt, and the burden of sin. And **leading us and directing** us away from evil is the spiritual direction. By the way, bread takes care of the present, forgiveness takes care of the past, and help takes care of the future. So, all the dimensions of life are covered, and all the needs of life are covered. It's amazing, the marvel, the wonder of how God's infinite mind can reduce all there is of human need to **three simple profound statements.**

- **ALL OF THIS IS FOR GOD'S GLORY.** We must remember that everything we are, and everything we do is for His glory. Even when you stick food in your mouth, it's for God's glory **not for your sustenance**, primarily.
- Notice (1 Cor. 10:31) ***“Whether then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”*** Well, how can eating food be to the glory of God? It brings Him glory if you remember **where it came from**, if you remember that He's the **SOURCE** of your food. If you remember **the capacity that you have to enjoy the flavor**. If you're **thankful to the one who provided the nourishment in it**. Everything is for the glory of God. **EVERYTHING!!!!** And prayer, nonetheless, is for **HIS GLORY**.

- We can't ask God for the **luxuries** of life based on this verse, but for the **necessities**. What He chooses to give us by way of luxury is at **HIS GRACIOUS** hand, but He promises to give us the necessities.
- **Notice (Prov. 30:8-9)** ***“Keep deception and lies far from me, Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food that is my portion, 9 That I not be full and deny You and say, “Who is the LORD?” Or that I not be in want and steal, And profane the name of my God.”*** I think that's the heart of this. It isn't self-seeking, give me more and more, It's just saying, **LORD GIVE ME WHAT I NEED**, and I want to let You know that I realize that **YOU** are the source of my **life**, my **food**, my **shelter**, my **clothing**, **MY ALL**.
- Why do we ask the Lord to forgive our sin and cleanse our life of something? Hasn't He already promised to forgive our sin (**1 Jn. 1:9**)? **Yes**, but He also said to **KEEP ON CONFESSING IT!!!**
- When we say things like, **“Lord, lead me and guide me in a certain direction,”** doesn't the Bible say He will be our leader, and He will guide us in this way and in that way (**Prov. 3:5-6**)? **Yes**, but He wants me to **affirm that I recognize that LEADERSHIP in my life.**

- When we call out to the Lord and say, “**Lord, hear my prayer and answer,**” and we know He has, and always will. **But God wants us to affirm that confidence BECAUSE THAT EXALTS HIM.** I may never have to say, “**Oh God, I don’t have any food for my family, where is it going to come from?**” But I will always need to say, “**GOD EVERYTHING I HAVE AND ALL THAT I SHARE WITH THOSE I LOVE COMES FROM YOUR GOOD AND GRACIOUS HAND.**”
- “**BREAD**” is the staple of life. And though we may not always be on the edge of hunger we are always to be **thankful** for all of it comes **FROM HIM.**



We Must be **GREATFUL**
For
GOD'S
PARDON.
#6

- For the next couple of weeks our focus is going to be on **verse 12**, “**And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.**” And then a footnote on **verse 14**, and **15**, “**For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: 15 But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.**”
- Those three verses, the statement in the prayer and then the very important footnote and the very much **misunderstood** footnote that our Lord gives in **14** and **15**, are going to be the “**theme**” of our study for the next few Wednesday nights. The focus and the concentration of **verse 12** is on the subject of **SIN** and its **FORGIVENESS**.
- This is a petition that **EVERY SOUL NEEDS** to face as a part of their prayer life.

- I think you will agree with me that the most essential, the most blessed and the most difficult thing that God ever did was provide man with the **FORGIVENESS of sin**. It is most essential because it keeps us from **ETERNAL HELL** and gives us **JOY** even in this life.
- It is most blessed because it introduces us into a fellowship with God that goes on forever and it is most difficult because it cost the Son of God His life, on a cross. The forgiveness of sin is the greatest need of the **HUMAN HEART**.
- Sin has a two-fold effect, generally, and that is that it damns men forever. That's its future effect.
- Secondly, its present effect is that it robs men of the fullness of life by bringing to bear upon his conscience an unrelieved and unrelenting **GUILT**. And so, as we face the problem of **SIN**, we face the fact that sin brings **IMMEDIATE** consequences, **guilt, loss of purpose, peace, joy, life** and the future consequence of **ETERNAL DAMNATION**.



- Just “thinking” about human life where sin is unforgiven, we have to face the fact of what **guilt** and **condemnation** in our own **CONSCIENCE** does to us.
- **WILLIAM SADLER** said quote: “A clear **conscience** is a great step toward barricading the mind against neuroticism.”
- **JOHN R. W. STOTT** in his little book, *Confess Your Sins*, quotes the head of a large British hospital as having said and I quote, “I could dismiss half of my patients tomorrow if they were assured of forgiveness.” Again, **Forgiveness** is man’s deepest need **NOW**, and in the **future**, for **health** and for **heaven**. This is “**WHY**” it is the first petition related to man’s soul here in the Lord’s prayer.

- Now remember, the **first three** petitions *“Hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven,”* these RELATE TO GOD.
- The **last three** petitions RELATE TO MAN. *“Give us this day our daily bread, forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,”*
- The first of the last three is for **PHYSICAL** sustenance. *“Give us this day our daily bread.”* And while there is only one petition for the physical life, there are **two** for the spiritual because it is much more important. **But the physical is first of all necessary.**
- We cannot live out spiritual principles unless we are alive **physically**. So, first our physical needs are met in **verse 11**, and then when we come to the **spiritual**, the first and most basic request on the part of the inner man is for the **FORGIVENESS OF SINS**.

- This is man's deepest spiritual need, and this is where God and man must **meet**. So, before God can ever lead us at all let alone lead us **NOT into temptation**; before God can **deliver us at all from anything** we must have a relationship to Him which is possible **ONLY WHEN OUR SINS ARE DEALT WITH**.
- **GOD** our Father is a holy God is of purer eyes than to behold evil and cannot look upon iniquity. **"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God,"** said Isaiah. And there is no way that an absolute holy God can possibly entertain in His presence a relationship with unholy, ungodly sinful men.

- If we are to have any relationship with God, if there is any spiritual thing to be gained, it begins with a **petition for FORGIVENESS**. And you will notice that in **verses 12, 14, and 15 FORGIVE** is mentioned **twice**. **SIX** times we see the thrust and the theme, **the forgiveness of sins**.
- The very nature of this prayer, is that we are **“acknowledging”** a **TOTAL DEPENDENCE ON GOD**. We will have **“no daily bread without God.”** We will have **“no forgiveness of sin without God.”** We will have **“no leading and directing in our lives APART FROM GOD.”** Therefore, **“HIS IS THE PREEMINENCE, THE POWER AND THE GLORY IN THE KINGDOM FOREVER!”** We are to focus on nothing, **BUT GOD**.