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Introduction

The Lord's Prayer.... It is famous throughout the world. Going to various countries, you find believers who repeat the ancient words in their individual tongues. For me, it was the prayer I learned after "Now I lay me down to sleep". The Lord's Prayer is repeated in practically all religious services. Over and over again, year after year, we speak these words from memory. But does that cause it to become somehow rote? This study was recommended by one of our Hope of Glory ladies, and it quickened me when she mentioned it. We all need to break apart this prayer to get into the deeper knowledge of what Jesus was teaching.

When Jesus taught this prayer to his beloved disciples, it was to be a pattern or model for their prayers. They knew the importance of prayer in the earthly life of Jesus. They knew it was in prayer that he gathered strength to do his ministry, his miracles, and his teachings. Jesus' prayer life was the very heart of his life, and it needs to be the same for you and me. So go back in time....

Imagine you are a follower of Jesus during his lifetime. You have virtually lived with him for 3 years, traveling throughout Israel and the surrounding area. Eating, drinking, learning, and praying. You enjoy his teachings and truly

believe he may be the Messiah. To your way of thinking, at the very least, he is a VERY holy man. When you go with Jesus and his entourage to Jerusalem, a cave in the side of the Mount of Olives is the place of privacy. It is away from the hustle and bustle of Jerusalem and away from the prying eyes of the Jewish religious leaders who are committed to destroying Jesus. It is here that tradition says Jesus taught his disciples how to pray. One of those teachings was The Lord's Prayer. At that site today stands a convent and church called the Pater Noster.

Mosaics of The Lord's Prayer from over 100 different languages adorn the walls of the cloisters that wind their way around this holy place. It is a visual reminder that Jesus came to save all nations, tribes, and peoples....the entire world.

We find The Lord's Prayer in two of the gospels: Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4. In Matthew, Jesus had been teaching about piety. He makes it clear that prayer is not a time to show your friends how pious you are or a time to flaunt your piety. Prayer is about communicating with your heavenly Father getting away from the rest of the world in solitude and sharing your heart with God. In Luke, the circumstances were different.



The disciples had seen Jesus break away again and again to find a solitary place to pray. When he returned to them, they asked him," Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." They are speaking about John the Baptist whose message as the forerunner of Jesus was to repent of your sins for the kingdom of God is near and repentance is needed for forgiveness.

Now the kingdom of God had emerged in the person of Jesus Christ.

So, let's pull apart and dissect this ancient prayer so that when we pray The Lord's Prayer, it will have a new meaning to us and we will have a deeper understanding of God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ.

Just some thoughts as we begin.

P...Pray Ephesians 6:18 "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints." Prayer needs to be an integral part of our spiritual lives.

R...Remain John 15:4 "Remain in me, and I will remain in you." Eternal work is dependent on your close relationship with Jesus Christ.

A...Acknowledge Proverbs 3:5,6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding: in all your ways acknowledge Him, and he will make your path straight." As we keep the Lord God in the forefront of our lives, we will be in his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Y...You It's all about you and the Father. John 17:22-23 "I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one. I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."

-Meg Rice

