

Powerful Prayers, Pt. 8
Pray This Way
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The Lord's Prayer is more than a script to recite, but a framework that reshapes the heart of the believer.

Matthew 6:5-13 (NLT) "When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you. "When you pray, don't babble on and on as the Gentiles do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. Don't be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him! Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us today the food we need, and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one."

1. Powerful Prayer Begins with Relationship

V. 9 (ESV) *"Our Father in Heaven"*

What does this simple statement teach us?

A. Prayer is Personal

Romans 8:15 *"You received the Spirit of adoption whereby we cry, Abba Father."*

B. Relationship Gives Access

2. Powerful Prayer Prioritizes God's Glory

V. 9 (ESV) *"Hallowed be Your name."*

Prayer is not about getting God aligned with our plans. It is about getting our heart aligned with His.

3. Powerful Prayer Pursues God's Purposes Before Our Desires

V. 10 (ESV) *"Your Kingdom Come"*

A. Kingdom Prayer Asks:

- What does God Want?
- What advances His Purposes?
- What brings glory to Jesus?
- What part can I play to see it come to pass?

B. Kingdom Prayer Changes Our Priorities

Jesus teaches us; What God desires is better than what you desire.

Psalm 37:4 (NIV) *“Delight yourself in the Lord; And He will give you the desires of your heart.”*

C. Kingdom Prayer Invites Heaven to Earth

4. Prayer Surrenders to God’s Will

V. 10 (ESV) *“Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.”*

Luke 22:42b (NKJV) *“not My will, but Yours be done.”*

The most dangerous and powerful prayer you can pray is: “Not my will, but Your will be done.”

A. Surrender is the Heart of Prayer

B. Heaven Becomes the Model of our Pursuit and Target of our Prayer

5. Prayer Expresses Daily Dependence

V. 11 (NLT) *“Give us this day our daily bread.”*

Why does Jesus want us to depend on God?

A. God Cares About Practical Needs

B. Dependence Defeats Pride

6. Powerful Prayer Requires a Clean Heart

V. 12 (ESV) *“and forgive us our sins AS WE forgive those who sin against us.”*

A. We All Need God's Forgiveness

1 John 1:9 (ESV) *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

God's forgiveness has:

1. Cleansed your sin
2. Restored connection and relationship
3. Redeemed your worth and Value
4. Released you from the punishment due for sin
5. Created a pathway to eternal life

B. Forgiven People Forgive People

Freedom cannot flourish where bitterness remains.

Mark 11:25 (NLT) *"And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him..."*

7. Powerful Prayer Seeks God's Protection and Victory

V13 (ESV) *"Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil."*

Jesus teaches us to pray with an awareness that an enemy exists.

Many battles are lost before they begin because prayer never happened.

8. Powerful Prayer Ends with Confidence in God's Ability

V. 13 (NKJV) *"For Yours is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen!"*

Powerful prayer is not:

- Perfect Words
- Religious Performance
- Spiritual Formulas

Powerful Prayer is:

- Knowing the Father
- Pursuing His Kingdom
- Trusting His Provision
- Walking in Forgiveness
- Seeking His Protection
- Resting in His Power