

WHEN YOU PRAY
The Model Prayer
Matthew 6:9-15

Last week, we began a series on prayer. Jesus presented us with a concept of prayer that was very PERSONAL with God and very SPECIFIC with regard to our lives and needs. He then gave us a PATTERN – or MODEL – which would help us understand how to approach God. **His teaching was revolutionary, and he never said ANYTHING that does not take a LIFETIME to process.** I never want us to forget the SIMPLICITY, POWER, and DEPTH of what Jesus taught us about prayer. Let's RECITE the Model Prayer together. **Matthew 6:9-13 KJV**

9 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 forever. Amen.

[RECITING the Model Prayer for some is like throwing "Hail Mary!" prayers to God!] This was NEVER Christ's intent! The MODEL PRAYER was meant to be a PRAYER STRUCTURE, not a prayer that Jesus wanted us to simply recite! It is the BONES that we have to put PRAYER MEAT upon! Furthermore, **this MODEL is not meant to be a type of RIGID LAW** when approaching God. It is a format that you and I should **use as a general guideline**, but should not feel that we HAVE to pray according to this pattern EVERY TIME we pray. **Now, REAL prayers START IN HEAVEN!**

Take time to WORSHIP the One that you are addressing.

*The FIRST FOCUS of prayer is NOT our NEEDS but HIS NAMES!

[Story of Bill Betts in Alaska: First focus had to move from a loss to PRAISE!]

-Start with a 1,000,000 FOOT VIEW and then move down!

OUR FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN:

*How do we embrace and reflect his fatherhood in our lives?

*This prayer begins with a COMMUNAL sense of God's relationship with us and our link to other believers in this world that are our brothers and sisters.

*HEAVEN: Refers to God's SOVEREIGNTY over all that is over us!

-Heaven covers and is above all that overwhelms us.

-Heaven is the REALM of God's PERFECT RULE. No rebellion in heaven.

HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME: [Don't RUSH this!] **[A.C.T.S.]**

*OVERFLOW praise – Gratitude toward God. [Give thanks. Acknowledge awe.]

-What are you IMMEDIATELY blessed by or grateful for today? **[Feeling.]**

-How are you LOOKING for ways to praise God today? **[Thinking; Leads to . . .]**

*OBSERVATION praise – Meditating on God. [Nature, Character, Works, etc.]

-Learn and Celebrate his glorious NAMES! [Name=Character, authority]

*His name is HOLY [Holy=Sacred/Revered/Pure] **[Tom Bowen: Sir!]**

-Learn how to USE GOD'S WORD in prayer! **[Psalms are a great guide!]**

***Read Psalm 145**

*My words at the MEN'S RETREAT: Nothing has changed but your PERSPECTIVE!
 -Praise does not first change our circumstances; it changes our thinking!

Make discovering and embracing GOD'S WILL the GOAL of your prayers.
THY KINGDOM COME. THY WILL BE DONE!

But Jesus employed the phrase "kingdom of God or of heaven to indicate [that perfect order of things which he was about to establish](#), in which all those of every nation who should believe in him were to be gathered together into one society, dedicated and intimately united to God, and made partakers of eternal salvation". This kingdom is spoken of as [now begun and actually present](#) inasmuch as its foundations have already been laid by Christ and [its benefits realized among men that believe in him](#) [THAYER'S GREEK LEXICON]

*OUR PROBLEM: We start our prayers with the implication: ["MY kingdom come, MY will be done!"](#)

-How long does it take you to LAY DOWN YOUR WILL in order to recognize and embrace GOD'S WILL and ETERNAL PLAN?

-The hardest part of praying is SUBMITTING your will to God!

Romans 12:1-2 NLT

1 And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice--the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. 2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

[My first great prayer meeting with God as a teenager. [Why Revival Tarries?](#)]

*In what way are you ASKING GOD to REVEAL his will to you in your prayer time?

-Are you asking what is CONSISTENT with his WORD?

-Are you willing to HEAR what you do not WANT to hear and TRUST HIS TIMING?

[QUOTE by Frederick Faber in [Soul Keeping: Workbook](#), John Ortberg - P. 122]

*Why don't our prayers get answered? We aren't looking for answers; we are looking for God to give us OUR WAY! **James 4:2-3 NLT**

2 You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. 3 And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong--you want only what will give you pleasure.

*Other reasons for unanswered prayer: Unconfessed sin, Disobedience.

... ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN!

*This is a reminder to pray for God's BIGGER WORK in this WORLD rather than just in my own life. But it also TIES God's bigger work in this world TO my life!

*How is God's will being done in heaven? Wouldn't it be great if his will could be done on this earth just like it is always done in heaven? I would just be thrilled if I was willing to do God's will in MY LIFE the way that it is done in heaven!

Come before God DAILY for your basic provisions and protection.
GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD.

*Ask God for what you NEED . . . EVERY DAY. [MANNA was a daily provision.]
-Our assumptions permeate our thinking.
-Our needs are being DROWNED by our wants!
-How intimate is your awareness of God's involvement in meeting your needs?

LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL.

*Ask God for GUIDANCE away from contexts that would pull you away from him and for PROTECTION from the evil that surrounds us in this world.

-Am I failing to SEEK that protection and guidance by NOT realizing how CLOSE I am to temptation at any given moment? [Simon Peter – "Watch and Pray . . ."]

-Am I REJECTING God's PROTECTION by putting myself in contexts that I KNOW WILL LEAD me into temptations that can destroy me? [Friendships/
Places/Media Traps]

Give away what God has ALREADY given you.
AND FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS.

*This prayer FOLLOWS the forgiveness that we receive from God in salvation!
-This forgiveness is what is EXPECTED by God for us to give to others.
-CONFESSION of sin is TIED to the RELEASE OF DEBTS that are owed to us due to the sins that others commit against us! **Matthew 6:14-15 NLT**
14 "If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. 15 But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Once we have entered into a redemptive relationship with Jesus Christ, he calls upon us to COOPERATE with him in dealing with the sins of this world as personally experienced by us!

*What WOUNDS still control you due to your REFUSAL to forgive?

*Your refusal to forgive makes RECEIVING further forgiveness impossible!
[God WILL NOT GRANT IT because we CANNOT receive it!]

*Your refusal to forgive others makes FORWARD PROGRESS impossible in your relationship with God! This is why some of you FEEL STUCK!

*God's forgiveness of our debts will PARALLEL the manner in which we RELEASE others from their debts to us!

*If you want clear fellowship with God and healing for yourself, you WILL FORGIVE those who have sinned against you.

*CONFESSION of sin should be SPECIFIC, NOT GENERIC!

-Common prayer: "Lord, forgive me of my sins." WHAT SINS?

*BERTHA SMITH: Sin LIST. ["Search my heart, O God!" [Psalm 139:23-24](#)]

Part of our callous attitude toward sin comes from our failure to SEE, OWN, and RENOUNCE our specific sins and failures! It is time to RENEW our sense of God's HOLINESS by addressing our sins regularly before God. My sins are committed one at a time, they break my fellowship with God in real time, and they must be confessed with clarity at the time that I become aware of them. Don't generalize your sins. Ask God to show you just how damaging they are to him, to others, and to your own spiritual and practical health!

I hope that this message has given you some PRACTICAL TOOLS that you can use when talking to God. If you can remember the MODEL PRAYER, you can hang your prayers on that model anytime you want to in order to give your heart and mind CLARITY and FOCUS as you pray. But remember, God wants you to simply talk to him, and he is PLEASED when you come to him as a child. Don't be afraid that you are going to mess this up. Just pray. But as you pray, GROW. The only failure is to FAIL TO PRAY.

Let's pray.