

PRAY FIRST

The Transformative Power Of A Life Built On Prayer

LESSON 2 – THE LORD’S PRAYER

*“Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. ¹⁰ Your kingdom come. Your will be done On 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 do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.” **Matthew 6:9-13 (NKJV)***

*“Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. ³ Give us each day our daily bread. ⁴ Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.” **Luke 11:2-4b (NIV)***

The Lord’s Prayer is one of the most familiar passages in the Bible. It is taught in Children’s Sunday school and catechism classes across a spectrum of faith denominations. Jesus wasn’t teaching us words to memorize but revealing how we should connect with our heavenly Father, Similar to the way in which the rabbinical teaching of the day followed specific outlines, Jesus concisely demonstrated elements for us to explore and expand on as we pray. These elements provide a timeless method for connecting fully with God and addressing the priorities of every believer.

1. Connect with God relationally.

A. “Our Father in heaven” (**Matthew 6:9a**). Calling God our Father allows us to connect with him relationally.

B. When we call God our Father, we use his favorite title, which reflects his lavish love for us.

C. Your view of God will determine your relationship with God.

Quote ~ “My relationship with God is as strong as the time and energy I put into connecting with God.” ~ Macklemore

2. Worship his name.

A. “Hallowed be Your name” (**vs 9b**). In **Proverbs 18:10** “The name of the LORD is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe.” We read that God’s name is a place of protection for the righteous. We can run to his name to find safety.

B. The name of God in Scripture are important because the name of God is the power of God. Demons bow at the name of Jesus., “That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” **Philippians 2:10-11 (NKJV)**

C. In the heavenlies, the name of God carries weight, authority, and power.

3. Pray God’s agenda first.

- A. *"Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (vs 10)*. The Bible says that when we go to God in prayer, we pray for *his* kingdom to come and *his* will to be done.
 - B. God will always give you what you need from day to day if you will make the kingdom of God your primary concern. **Luke 12:31** *"But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you."*
 - C. God's agenda is always people. It's even people who are far from him, people who are hurting, and people who have never heard the gospel.
4. Depend on God for everything.
- A. *"Give us this day our daily bread" (vs 11)*. When we pray this and say, "give us", we're communicating that God has everything we need.
 - B. It's good for us to ask God for things that we think we can take care of ourselves. We don't wait until we've lost them to ask God for them.
 - C. Be specific and ask God for everything that you need in your life.
5. Get your heart right with God and people.
- A. *"Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors" (vs 12)*. First, we confess to God that we have some attitudes or some issues in our lives that are not pleasing to him.
 - B. When we confess our sins daily to God and ask him to search our hearts, it keeps us from getting desensitized to the world and to the impact of our sins.
 - C. We also must get our hearts right with people. Every day, forgive the people who have hurt you and, in your mind, forgive those who *will* hurt you that day.
6. Engage in spiritual warfare.
- A. *"And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one" (vs 13a)*. Prayer is not just communion with God but also confrontation with the enemy.
 - B. The enemy's greatest weapon is a lie. He will lie to you about your identity, about your future, about your problems-even about God. Make your declarations against him out of God's Word.
 - C. Every day, take your stand against the enemy and fight the good fight of faith.
7. Express faith in God's ability.
- A. *"For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever" (vs 13b)*. We release our faith by reminding ourselves of God's ability and limitless power.

- B. It's a great exclamation point at the end of our prayer time to acknowledge that nothing is too difficult for God.
- C. If you use the Lord's Prayer as a process to follow, you will enjoy prayer at a whole new level.