

THE Perfect Prayer

- Opening Announcements
- Opening Prayer

Q: When you think of the "Lord's Prayer", what comes to mind?

Q: What topics, situations, issues, does this prayer apply too?

READ: Matthew 6:9-13 "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 also have forgiven our debtors.¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

"Our Father"

Q: What's interesting about these words? What does this cover in our life?

Q: Why did Jesus teach us to refer to God as "Father"? Why is this comforting?

"In Heaven"

Q: What's significant about this phrase?

"Hallowed be your name"

Q: What does it mean to "hallow" something? Why is this important? Does this remind you of any of the 10 Commandments? How about Acts 4:12 or Joel 2:32 or Romans 10:13?

Q: What's so important about His Name?

"Your kingdom come"

Q: What's THIS about? How does God's "kingdom come"?

"Your will be done"

Q: Why is THIS important for us to focus on? How do we know HIS "will" vs our own?

"On earth as it is in heaven"

Q: How does THIS happen? Why is there resistance to this? How do we enter into more of this in our life?

"Give us this day our daily bread"

Q: Is this ONLY about "bread"? What does this cover in our life? What major event in the old testament does this remind you of?

Q: Why is this important for us to focus on? What's the relationship with this prayer and contentment? Why would this be good for us to focus on and to seek to live out in our life?

"Forgive us our debts"

Q: How is our sin like a debt?

Q: Talk about how this way of seeing sin relates to what Jesus did for us in His coming, death, resurrection.

"As we have forgiven our debtors"

Q: In light of this, precisely what are we asking God to do in this petition?

READ: Matthew 6:14-15 "For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, ¹⁵ but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses"

NOTE: These verses come immediately after Jesus gives the Lord's Prayer. Why the emphasis? Does this help us understand the importance of this petition IN the Lord's Prayer?

Q: Ultimately WHO benefits from our forgiveness?

"And lead us not into temptation"

Q: Why is THIS petition important?

"But deliver us from the evil one"

Q: WHO is ultimately behind all temptation?

Q: Why is this petition really a prayer for spiritual protection?

Q: Does it make more sense that IF God removes His protection, that "leads" (causes, makes it possible) for the "evil one" to "tempt us", deceive us, lead us astray, "steal, kill and destroy"?

HOMEWORK: Check out the daily prayers (on the app), Sunday Evening Elders Prayer, November 1 @ 6:30pm