

X. The Lord's Prayer in Biblical Perspective  
"Petition #6: Deliverance and the Deliverer"

Matthew 6:5–13

Dr. Harry L. Reeder III

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This is the word of God. Matthew 6:5–13.

**5** "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. **6** But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. **7** "And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. **8** Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. **9** Pray then like this:

"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.

*(For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever,  
Amen. – this is omitted in some manuscripts)*

The grass withers and the flower fades, but the Word of God abides forever. May God bless this His Word to the heart of His people.

This past week (4/29/08) marks the five year anniversary when our President landed in a Navy Jet on an aircraft carrier and on the aircraft carrier they had requested permission to erect a sign that said, "Mission Accomplished." The media has sarcastically used that this week to mean that the mission had not been accomplished after all the hundreds of deaths that has happened with this war on terror in Iraq. Without going deeper into that issue I would say my guess is that the President would have loved for that sign to have been a little bit bigger so that across the top it said, "MISSION ACCOMPLISHED" and then there would have been enough room underneath for another line reading; "Not yet finished." Mission accomplished but not yet finished is the idea I want you to grasp for this study. I was glad that came about this week because it gave me an introduction for this study.

Mission accomplished, 2100 years ago. A searching cry goes out all throughout all of heaven. The whole world lies in the power of the Evil One. Men and women's thought are only evil always and continually. Men and women are bound and in the bondage of evil and sin. There is no praise to arise from the hearts of men and women into the heavens to the glory of God. The creation that is there for His glory is not lifting up glory. Men and women made in the image of God are now in the bondage of the Evil One and in the bondage of sin. Their eyes are blinded and they worship and serve the creature rather than the Creator. Who can possibly deliver them? A cry goes out, "Who is worthy? Who is able?" Only One is able to stand up and it is the Son of God.

Heaven's Champion arises. 2100 years ago an historical fact happened. God the Son takes upon Himself flesh. He comes into this world on a mission to defeat sin, Satan, death, hell, the grave and to deliver His people from evil. After Jesus walked this earth for 33 years and suffered a death on a cross, a tomb is blasted open. Christ arises and God spreads across His Word – Mission Accomplished. There is a Redeemer. There is a Deliverer. Mission accomplished but not yet finished. It is not yet finished in you. It is not yet finished through you and it is not yet finished throughout the world. It is not yet finished.

As we have been studying this Lord's Prayer we are now on this last petition. We started off by God reminding us about coming into His presence with intimacy – "Our Father." We come into His presence with reverence – "Who art in heaven." Then He gives us the privilege to call upon Him with our many requests and He says, "Let me teach you how to pray by giving you these petitions." The first three are God-ward and the second three are man-ward. In the first three the first petition controls all of the other five petitions – "Hallowed be Thy Name." Hallowing the Name of God is that God's glory and honor would be secured, would be paramount, would be preeminent and would be our passion and to do that we then pray that cannot happen until "Thy Kingdom come." The Gospel of the Kingdom of God has to rescue men and women from the kingdom of darkness and brings them to the Kingdom of light, from death to light. They will not praise Him until He changes them. So may King Jesus spread throughout all the world with His redeeming power, "Thy Kingdom come." When that Kingdom comes then "Thy will be done" just as the heavens resound with the praise of Your Name may "thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

The next three are man-ward. So God, we cannot do Your will unless You sustain us. We cannot even function unless You give us our daily portions so "Give us our daily bread." Lord, please bless the seed in the ground that it may give forth food. May seed time and harvest continue. God, give me what I need to live for You. Sustain this body that You have created with the daily portions that I need with food, drink, shelter and clothing. I am utterly confessing my dependence on You. Oh God, now that I am sustained physically, I must be renewed spiritually. I am a sinner. I take Your good gifts and use them for myself so forgive me my debts. Forgive us our debts and the integrity of my confession and repentance I do declare by my willingness to forgive others my debts against me. When they have sinned against me I want to be ready to forgive them. I want to free them from me and send them to You even as You have freed me by grace. Give me that heart of grace. God, I want now to walk for You so as I walk "Lead me not into temptation." I know God You are sending tests designed to grow me but Satan has designed temptations. Satan has designed temptations to disturb me, dismay me, discourage me and deter me so "lead us not into temptation." Keep me from evil but as You keep me from evil I fully realize and then he finishes the request. To be kept from evil I must be rescued from evil and the Evil one.

The sixth petition has acknowledged that as we desire God's glory we need God's grace for our provision. We also need God's grace for pardon and protection. God I call upon You. Your grace is greater than my sin and You will deliver me from evil and You will deliver me from the Evil one. God sends His Son as the Deliverer. The text says, "Deliver us from evil" but it is actually "Deliver us from the Evil one." There are three things from this petition that I want to answer. One is do what? The second is

from what or whom? And the third is by what or whom? We will start this petition by looking at the first word, deliver.

**What** are we asking Him specifically to do? We are asking Him to deliver us. The deliverance message of the Gospel is what we are asking for. We need a Deliverer. We have a jail keeper. We have evil and an Evil one. We need a Deliverer to set us free. We need someone to rescue us. In the prayer that Jesus prays before He goes to the cross which is a High Priestly prayer in John 17:15–26 there are seven requests that are prayed for in that prayer. (John 17:15 says, “*I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.*”) One of the requests He spends a lot of time on deals with our unity but another that fills up the pages of John 17 is “Lord, those whom You have given Me I lose not one and I have kept them in this world and I have kept them from the world. Oh Father protect them from the Evil one.” In the request from the Lord’s Prayer it goes a step further. Not only protect us from evil and the Evil one but in the Lord’s Prayer He is teaching us to pray, “Deliver us, rescue us from evil and the Evil one.”

This leads into the second question of deliver us from **what or whom?** It is deliver us from evil or more precisely the Evil one. When you and I are born into this world we are born into a fallen world. We are born into an evil world that lies in the power of the Evil one and we are born sinners. We are not born sin sick we are born sin dead. We are dead in our sins. The bondage of evil has trapped our hearts and our lives. We are fallen men and women in a fallen world. There is an enemy outside of us which is the world. It is this world of evil that systematically standing in cosmic treason against God and systematically assaulting anything and everything that would be raised up for the glory of God. Then there is the enemy inside of us called the flesh. I have got this principle of evil that is within me that is always seeking to break forth in rebellion against God. One may say, “Harry I have been saved. Have I not been delivered from that fallen nature?” Yes you have been delivered but you still have that principle of evil still at work within you. But behind the principle of evil within us, the flesh, and the evil without, the world, there is also the Evil one who is the author of rebellion against God. Satan is the one who holds the world in that power of that system of rebellion against the Living God.

Matthew 13 shows us how the Bible speaks of this Evil one. Matthew 13 has seven parables about what the Kingdom of God is like in this world now. One of the great ones is the one about the parable of the sower in which there is the seed, the sower, four different kinds of soils and four different responses. The four soils are the hard ground, the rocky ground, the thorny ground and the good ground. In the hard ground when the seed comes it never gets underneath because it is a hard ground. So what happens to that seed that falls on the hard ground? Matthew 13:18, 19 says, “*Hear then the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, **the** evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path (the hard ground).*” This has happened today. We have already had the privilege, within the introduction of talking about the goodness, glorious, marvelous thing possible and that is the good news that a Deliverer has been sent and has won the victory. And already before it could get from my lips through your ears and into your heart, it has already been snatched away with your

thoughts of next week, of lunch, of the pressing matters of this world. The evil one snatches it away.

Who is this evil one? In Matthew 13 there is another parable called the Parable of the Tares. Matthew 13:36–39 says, **36** *“Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.”* **37** *He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. **38** The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, **39** and the enemy who sowed them is the devil.”* Now we have him named. There is this real actual personage, the evil one, and now he is identified clearly as the devil, the fallen angel, the evil one. Deliver us from the evil one.

2 Thessalonians 3:1–3 says, **1** *“Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, **2** and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith. **3** But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.”* Here we are asking the Lord to deliver us from evil, and to go to the core of the matter. Not just the world, not just sin, not just its consequences, death, Hell, and the grave. Lord, we need to be delivered from the evil one whom You have promised to protect us from, whom You have promised to guard us from. We need You to deliver us. There is no other Deliverer. None of us are able to deliver ourselves or anyone else. There is no church to deliver me. There is no ritual to deliver me. I need a Deliverer to have deliverance and God sends His Son. He sends His Son on a mission. For the sake of time, here is another text to look at. It is so glorious and it is 1 Timothy 2. It is a trustworthy statement deserving full acceptance.

A historical fact happened 2,100 years ago. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, to deliver us from evil. Did He come to deal the death blow to the evil one? How is He going to save sinners? He is going to redeem us from our sins, but that is not all that He is going to do. He has come to defeat the serpent. Remember the promise in Genesis? To the woman, He said, “I’ll give you a seed.” His heel will be bruised but he will bruise the head of the serpent, that evil one. He will bruise his head. He will give him a mortal blow.

1 John 3:8 says, *“Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.”* Now we still sin, but as believers, we do not make a practice of it. So, Jesus Christ has come into this world on a mission, a deliverance mission to deliver us from evil by defeating the evil one. He delivers us from evil, sin, death, Hell, grave, sickness, all of those things that are here as the wages of sin because He has come and defeated the evil one. Christ delivers us from him whose design is to attack us, to assault us, to tempt us, to snare us, to trap us constantly and incessantly but we have a Fortress, a Deliverer, Jesus, God’s own Son.

I have got good news. The mission is accomplished. Jesus Christ has come into this world, gone to a cross and at that moment where Satan probably thought “Look. It’s all coming together. There dies the Son of God.” He is redeeming us from our sin. He is casting down and binding the strong man. At that very moment, He is making a mockery of the kingdom of darkness and the principalities and the authorities. At that very moment, He is accomplishing the mission and when that tomb is empty, when that stone is blown away, when that moment happens, there is a victory proclaimed. Christ

has risen. We are delivered in Christ. The Lord of Glory has accomplished the mission. Victory has been won! Yet, in the pages of Scripture He reminds us we are not yet finished. Here are three practical things you need to know about your deliverance from the evil one.

Good news though, you are delivered. Wait, but it is not finished. You are still being delivered. Wait, it is not finished, you will be delivered. You are delivered. You are being delivered and you will be delivered. Before I give you the three takeaways I want to share with you about a time when I was in Chattanooga and I had a student Pastorate there. There was a couple of Bible colleges and one of them was a very fervent, passionate Bible college. At that college all of the Bible students had to go to the streets to either preach or at least share the Gospel to evangelize people. One day on the streets of Chattanooga, I was a target of that moment where this student was fulfilling his class requirement with passion, but he was coming toward me. I could see he was kind of a little uneasy about it so I made it even more uneasy for him. I said, "Did you want to talk to me about something?" He said, "Yeah, okay." I said, "What did you want to say?" I wanted him to have a full experience of this moment. Then he looked at me and finally said "Are you saved?" And I looked and I thought a minute and I said "Well, yes and no." He looked at me again and I said "Well, I have been saved. But you know? I am being saved. But you know? I will be saved. Yeah, I am saved. I am being saved. I will be saved." By that time, his face has gone into a whole new dimension and he looks at me and he said "Are you a preacher?"

The good news is you have been delivered from sin, evil and the evil one. You are being delivered and you will be. Granted, this is a ten part series sermon but I am just going to give you six statements about it. Here we go.

The first thing is in Christ you have been delivered from evil, sin and the evil one. How? Here are the first four statements out of the ten. One, you have been delivered from the persuasion of evil, from the persuasion of sin. The Bible calls that a divine calling. Here is how it happened. When people are sharing the Gospel it is from an external calling. We call that evangelism. People were sharing the Gospel and one day the Holy Spirit internally gave you eyes to see and ears to hear. You got a new perspective.

I grew up my entire life being taken to Christian churches, hearing the Gospel. I kept hearing it from a father, a mother, a grandfather, a grandmother, but I went the opposite direction into the far country of sin, degradation and ungodliness. When I was 21 years old, one day in December of 1969, it clicked and I realized there is an eternity. There is a wrath to come. There is a Savior who will save me and I can have a relationship with Him. It came together. I wish I could tell you the reason why as I walked into a church. I did walk into a church and heard a preacher. I wish I could tell you it was the preacher. In fact, with all due respect, if he ever reads this transcript, because he is still living, I actually heard a lot better preachers growing up. It was not the preacher. It was just a little bitty church. It was not what was happening in that church. They were Presbyterian. There was not much happening, but it clicked. I got a new perspective; faithful is He who calls you and He will bring it to pass. By God's Grace, I saw I was the sinner. I was in need of the Savior and Jesus says to me, "Come." When that happens and you come, it is called conversion.

That leads to the second statement because when conversion occurs, you are not only delivered from the persuasion of sin through divine calling but you are delivered

from the power of sin/evil through regeneration. You are born again. You once were dead in your sins, but God, being rich in His Mercy, has caused you to be born again to a living hope. Now you are alive in Jesus Christ. Now you are living in the Lord. You were dead, not sin sick, sin dead. You were dead in your sins. By God's Grace, when He called you, He brought you forth and He not only gave you a new perspective, He gave you a new heart. Now you can believe and repent and trust in Jesus as your Lord and Savior. That is why Jesus said to Nicodemus in John 3:3, *"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."* The new birth is not God's reward when you believe, the new birth is the power of God that gives you the ability to believe, where He breaks the power of the evil one and not only do you now see but now you can come. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."* You have got a new heart.

I may have shared this before, but I love this story because of what happened to me. My first Pastorate was in Miami. I used to teach a Bible study at 6:00 on Wednesday mornings, so I would leave at 5:30 and on the way I would listen to this radio station, WMCU, a Miami Christian University station. I so enjoyed listening to this station. It had my two favorite preachers; Vance Adler and J. Vernon McGee. I love the way they would phrase things and J. Vernon McGee would always say something and I would wonder "Now how is he going to get out of that?" He loved to do that. One time he did this to me. I am driving to my Bible study and McGee says "I'm just tired of hearing preachers tell people to give their heart to Jesus." I thought he had a stroke. I not only wondered how he was going to get out of that, I was convinced that he could not get out it, so I pulled over to the side of the road just to find out how he was going to end this thing. He said "Now where in the Bible does it say 'give your heart to Jesus'?" He said "The Gospel is not you give your heart to Jesus. The Gospel is come to Jesus. He'll give you a new heart. The old one He cuts out; nails to the cross. The new one is in His hands. Now the power of sin has been broken."

So I have been delivered from the persuasion of sin calling. I have been delivered from the power of sin regeneration. Thirdly, I have been delivered from the penalty of sin/evil. The Bible calls this 'justification'. God has cleansed me from all of my sin through the blood of Jesus and He has given me His righteousness. When Jesus Christ went to that cross, He knew no sin. The record of my life shows I have got sin. I am a sinner. Then here is the life of Jesus. He made Him who knew no sin and my sin was imputed to Him so He became sin on my behalf. He who had no sin, became sin for me. But that does not get me to Heaven because Heaven is for the righteous and my righteousness is like filthy rags. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, *"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."* Then Jesus' record is given to you, perfect righteousness. Every time God looks at you, He sees the righteousness of His Son. So it is not just as if you had never sinned. Jesus through His blood has cleansed you and with His Righteousness has clothed you and it is just as if every fault, word and deed in your life had been for God's Glory because it is God's righteousness that has been given to you.

Where does that leave me? I have been delivered from the persuasion of sin. I have been called. I have been delivered from the power of sin. I have been born again, regenerated. I have been delivered from the penalty of sin. I have been justified.

Fourthly, I have been delivered from the position of sin and now I have been adopted into the Family of God. I am no longer an orphan of sin. I have now been brought into the Family of God and now I can call this God "Father" and His people, my brothers and sisters. I am now His son. You are now His son or His daughter. When you falter now, you come to Him. You do not come to Him as a criminal. You come to Him as a son and a daughter. You say, "Father, forgive me" and how He delights in renewing the walk of His children when they call upon Him.

But I have not only been delivered, I am being delivered from the practices, which brings me to the second takeaway and the fifth statement. I am being delivered from the practice of sin. The Bible calls this 'sanctification', where we are growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ in our walk with the Lord and our walk for the Lord. It is this that the Lord is doing in your life now. Today, if you have never come to Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, may I invite you, because this day persuasion of the Lord can bring you to Christ.

This day, I plead with you. Come to Him who will break the power of sin, who will forgive you and remove the penalty of sin, who will bring you into His family. Come to Christ. You say "Pastor, how do I do that?" You come just as you are. "Harry, do I need to go get better?" Oh, no do not go get better. Go to Jesus just as you are, come. Without one plea, but praise God, Your blood has been shed for me. You may say "Pastor, I've done that." Alright, now we are talking about you. You are being delivered from the practice of sin. Now no matter how much you grow, you are never going to be more born again, more justified, more adopted or more called, but the more you grow, the more you can be used of Him, the more you know Him, the more you become intimate with Him, the more you are ready to serve Him.

The Bible calls this 'sanctification' and that is the process you are in until we get to the last takeaway and the sixth statement, which is this: I will be delivered from the presence of sin/evil and that day is called 'glorification'. This last week it just seems like I have gone from funeral to funeral. The great blessing I have to do at each and every funeral is to be able to stop and tell those who are grieving, "Listen. I know there's a hole that's there, but I want to encourage you by what they have now. You see, we think when people die, they left the land of the living to go to the land of the dying. Actually, they just left the land of the dying and went to the land of the living."

When one comes to Jesus they not only get a new perspective, a new heart, a new record, a new family, living out a new life, but one has a new home. When we leave here, we are home. We are the sojourners. We are the aliens. On that day we are home forever. "Harry, if that's such good news, why don't people accept it?" Why are there people sitting here today? Why do we not receive this gift of eternal life and turn from our sins and come to Jesus? You know why? It is very simple. There are actually three reasons why. The first reason is this: We do not like to be told we are sinners and need a Savior. Two, we dislike even more being told that we cannot save ourselves. Three, and what we despise is for anyone to tell me outside of me there is something called The Way, The Truth, The Life. Oh friend, do you not want to rejoice that there is a way? Jesus is the way and He will deliver you from evil. Listen. I hope and pray you heard me. Satan is not a cartoon character. He is not a red suit, pitch fork, pointy tailed, couple of horns on his head. He is a real fallen angel who is greater than us, but God's Grace is greater. The One that is in you will deliver you "for

*he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world*" (1 John 4:4). Jesus defeated Satan at the cross. Victory is accomplished. You can be delivered from that real Satan, the evil one. You can be delivered from the reality of sin and its consequences. It is all found in Jesus Christ.

I want to go back to my Chattanooga days with you for a moment. I had a lady who had been listening to a James Dobson broadcast, *Focus on the Family*, and this lady had given a testimony about how she had used her scripture memory verse and shouted it out at a thief who was in her house and the thief left. That made an impression on this lady. Do you know what happened to her? This happened in Chattanooga, Tennessee in 1976. She had just finished taking her kids to school and she was riding down Broad Street in Chattanooga, Tennessee. She stopped at a stop light and a guy jumped in her car and he put a gun right to her head and said "Start driving." She all of a sudden remembered that event and she remembered her memory verse from Psalm 91; "God will be your fortress. God will be your deliverer. He will hide you under His pinions" which actually are wings. But she could not remember the wings part and she said aloud in the car, "God will deliver me. He will hide me under his..." She just could not remember but finally it came to her, it was something close to wings so she looked at him and said "Feathers, feathers, feather." The third time she said "Feathers" he got out of the car and left her right there.

God is your deliverer. Every Lord's day when we come here to worship, you remember Jesus is risen, mission accomplished. Every time you go to your class, your team, your college, your neighborhood, your office, remember, we are not finished yet. God is still working on me and He is working through me to rescue those under the bondage of the evil one. Oh, God, deliver us from evil. Nothing shall separate you from the love of God in Jesus Christ. Your Savior will deliver you.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for the time we could be together. Thank You that You are the fortress that You are the redeemer, that You are the God of Glory. The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him. His rage we can endure for lo, his doom is sure. One little word shall fell him. So, Lord, with humility because we were delivered, but with confidence for we have a victorious Deliverer. We will give You praise and glory and keep doing Your work in us and through us, for Jesus sake, Amen.