

Wednesday, January 18, 2023
LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY
BEGINNING WITH PRAISE

Tonight, we continue our teaching, “Lord, Teach us to Pray” by taking a look at the first prayer point in the Lord’s Prayer. The prayer begins with praise.

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed by your name” /// Matthew 6:9

The Bible teaches us in *Psalm 100:4* – *“Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.”*

We are to come before the Lord with a thankful heart, praising Him for who He is. Okay, if we are to praise Him for who He is, it helps to know who He is! Long ago, a name given to a person meant more than just a sign of recognition. A name had meaning. Names described character qualities hoped for in the person or circumstances surrounding their birth. God’s name describes who He is. That’s why Psalm 100:4 can tell us to, “praise His name”, because in doing so, we are praising Him for who He is since His name describes Him. Matthew 6:9 tells us to “hallow” His name.

“Hallow” is not a term we often use but it means:

“To sanctify, to set apart for praise and adoration.”

There is no one like God. There is no other name that carries the power and authority that Name does. It is set apart in glory and majesty from every other name. We hallow His name by praising Him, adoring Him, and living according to His truth. More on this in a minute. The prayer addresses God as “Our Father”. When you hear the name “father” what do you think of? He is all of the good and perfect things the name “father” implies. He is caring, protective and encouraging. He is a teacher, a guide, and a loving disciplinarian. He is a provider and a loving, present dad. Just meditating on the name “Father” can heal wounds of those who have been neglected or abused by earthly fathers. Remember, that we said that if we are to praise Him for who He is, it helps to know who He is? God revealed Himself to Moses as “Jehovah”.

Jehovah – I AM THAT I AM = “I am present, ready to save and to act, unchangeable”

God revealed Himself to Israel through eight Hebrew names which correspond to what God has provided for us through the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ. We call Him “Father” and participate in His promises by the blood of Jesus. We “hallow” the name of God by coming into agreement with what God has done for us through the finished work of Jesus Christ. The following are the names that correspond to the finished work of Jesus on the cross. I’ll give you the Hebrew name, but all you really need to know is what He has done for you.

1. The Lord our Righteousness

The Hebrew name for the Lord our Righteousness is “Jehovah-tsidkenu”. Praise God that your sins – past, present, and future are forgiven by the blood of Jesus. Have you wondered how God sees you? When He looks at you, He sees the blood of Jesus. You have had the righteousness of Jesus accounted to you. When we find out who God is, it tells us something about who we are. We respond by saying, “I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus”.

2. The Lord Who Sanctifies

The Hebrew name is Jehovah-m’kaddesh. Not only are your sins forgiven, but you have been given power over sin – it no longer has the right to reign over you and remain active in you. The blood of Jesus doesn’t overlook sin, it overcomes it! We respond by saying, “I am no longer a slave to sin but a slave to righteousness through my Lord Jesus Christ”.

3. The Lord is Peace

The Hebrew name is Jehovah-shalom. We not only have peace with God – we are not His adversary but His child, and we have the peace of God. That means that we only get nervous about what God is nervous about. What is God nervous about? We respond by saying, “The peace of God rules my heart and my mind by Christ Jesus”.

4. The Lord is Present

The Hebrew name is Jehovah-shammah. He has said that He will never leave us or forsake us. He is in front of me and behind me at the same time! We do not fear abandonment. We respond by saying, “Nothing can separate me from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus, my Lord”.

5. The Lord who Heals

The Hebrew name is Jehovah-rophe. We are not begging God to heal us. We thank Him that we are already in the state of healing through our relationship with Him. We respond by saying, “By His stripes, I am healed”.

6. The Lord whose Provision Shall be Seen

The Hebrew name is Jehovah-jireh. He sees our needs before we have them and provides for them. He has redeemed us from the curse of failure, insufficiency, and falling short. We respond by saying, “My God shall supply all my need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus”.

7. The Lord my Banner

The Hebrew name is Jehovah-nissi. A banner is a standard lifted up during war to proclaim whose side you are on. His banner over us is love. We are free from the fear of the reign of death or hell. We respond by saying, “I am more than a conqueror through Him who love me”.

8. The Lord my Shepherd

The Hebrew name is Jehovah-rohi. He leads me to green pastures and to still waters. Even though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we will fear no evil. He leads us into the house of the Lord where we will dwell forever. We respond by saying, “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want”.

After this, who needs more? Well, there is more.

Today's Scriptures:

- *Matthew 6:9*
- *Psalms 100:4*