

How To Pray For A Breakthrough Matthew 6:9-10

Have you ever thought about all the things you can do in less than 30 seconds?

Wash your hands
Check your email
Make your bed
Write a grocery list
Drink a glass of water
Pay a bill
Send a text message
Write a thank you note

But, the most life changing thing you can do in less than 30 seconds is pray the Lord's Prayer.

It is the greatest prayer ever taught and prayed. It is supernatural. It heals. It delivers. It protects. It empowers, and it provides for those who pray it. This Sunday we will dive deep into its life-changing words.

It is the one prayer prayed across all denominational, geographical, and national boundaries.

The prayer is an admission of our absolute need and dependence upon God for our daily food, our forgiveness, our protection from evil and harm, and for His power to meet our greatest needs.

We're going to learn how heaven's kingdom power breaks through and comes to earth, and when it does, it shatters the darkness. It restores brokenness and fills people with hope. Healing takes place in our relationships, healing in our emotions, and healing in our hearts.

In New York City, there are two contrasting statues. The first statue is on Fifth Avenue at Rockefeller Center. It's the statue of Atlas holding up the world. It's the statue of this strong muscle-bound man who is straining to hold up the world, and he can barely stand up underneath the heavy weight of it. In Greek mythology, Atlas holding up the world, was a burdensome curse. It wasn't an act of courage like we think of it today. He was cursed that he had to do that, straining to try to hold up the world.

Across the street from the Atlas statue, on Fifth Avenue inside Saint Patrick's Cathedral is another statue. It's a really small statue of the boy Jesus at eight or nine years of age, and He's holding the world in one hand, like a little ball.

You see, compared to Jesus, the world is really small. He's got the whole world in one hand. Today, you and I get to choose. You get to choose if you want to try to be Atlas. You want to be the king of the world and have to try to hold up under the burdens of carrying the weight of the world and the problems of your life on your own shoulders.

You can choose to give it to Jesus, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. You weren't made to be the king. You were made to worship the One True King, and until you fully understand that, you'll always be stressed and disconnected from the Father's care and from fulfillment in your own life.

When you realize how broken you are and stop trying to patch yourself up, you go to the Father who brings healing and strength. When you seek Him and pray to Him, you admit that you need God and His strength, that's when God works miracles.

You and I are being invited to connect with the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. We need *“Our Father in Heaven.”* Matthew 6:9

We need Him to bring heaven to earth. We need Him to bring heaven's healing power, to relationships, and to families and bodies and minds and hearts and emotions. Ask Him to bring heaven's comfort and peace to His children.

We were not meant to carry our burdens. We were meant to bring them to Jesus and lay them at His feet. God designed us to pray so we can transfer the burden of our battles to Him.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” Philippians 4:6

“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.” 1 Peter 5:7

We can give Him every concern and know He will sustain us.

“Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken.” Psalm 55:22

Prayer is our greatest power. Prayer, in the name of Jesus, can do anything that God can do, and God can do anything. Nothing lies outside of the power of prayer, except that which lies outside the will of God. Prayer is our greatest privilege. Prayer ought to be our greatest passion.

The Lord's Prayer gives us a pattern to teach us how to pray (Matthew 6, Luke 11). We must take prayer seriously because we are in a war, and our enemy wants to kill us. If Jesus needed to pray, we should pray.

“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” Ephesians 6:12

The question is not why the enemy attacking more. The real question is why more of the enemy's attacks landing successfully. We need to lift the shield of faith in prayer as a defense for our families and our country.

In the Old Testament, the prophet Daniel battled principalities. A principality is one type of demon that is a prince over a geographic region.

Then he said to me, “Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.” Daniel 10:12–13

We fight principalities every time souls are saved and every time we stand for righteousness in our nation.

We also battle demons called familial spirits. These are spirits that have strongholds in our families.

Jesus, our Prince of Peace, is Lord over every principality and every spiritual power.

“This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” Matthew 6:9-10

When the battles and the burdens come, we have a prayer. We have a prayer for deliverance, for healing, for restoration. We have a Father.

- Heaven Breaks Through, And It Shatters Darkness.

- Heaven Breaks Through, And It Restores Brokenness.

“To those who have sorrow in Zion I will give them a crown of beauty instead of ashes. I will give them the oil of joy instead of sorrow, and a spirit of praise instead of a spirit of no hope...” Isaiah 61:3

Jesus starts out by saying, “This then is how you should pray.” Jesus says, “I’m going to teach you how to pray.”

The prayer is plural in nature. 8 plural pronouns. Earlier in Matthew 6 he made prayer individual.

“But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you openly.” Matthew 6:6

It’s a reminder that we pray to God individually, and we approach him individually, and He cares about our needs individually. Then He makes prayer plural. The disciples asked a plural question, *“Lord teach us to pray.”* Luke 11:1

The plurality reminds us that we are in the family of God because we are born again into a family. It takes the “me, my, and mine” out of prayer and puts the “our, us, and we” into prayer. When we pray, we pray for others’ needs, not just our own needs.

“For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name.” Ephesians 3:14

He gives a collective prayer for the entire body of Christ.

“Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” Matthew 18:19-20

1. He Is A Personal Father.

“Our Father who art in Heaven.” Matthew 6:9

He is our Lord, and He is sovereign. He is in heaven. He is above all, and He sees all. Because of this, I can relax and know He is control of everything.

We are praying to a person. God is our Father. He uses a very emotional relational title for God. We come before the God who created it all, and we get to say, “Daddy, I need you.”

He is inviting us into an intentional relationship. In the Old Testament, God is only referred to as Father 14 times, and every time it is in reference to the entire nation of Israel, never to an individual. In the New Testament Gospels, God is called “Father” 167 times. Over 60 times, and in every one of His prayers, Jesus called God “Father.” The word Jesus used was a word that was even more intimate than the normal word for Father. The common word for father is the word “Abba.” It is the word that a little child would use, that literally means “Papa” or “Daddy.” The first two words that a Jewish child would learn would be the words “Imma” which means Mama, and the word “Abba” which means Daddy. In fact, today Arabic children use the word “Abbu” to refer to their father. The first words our children learn are “DaDa” or “MaMa.”

We are to come to God as a little child would come to his papa or to his daddy. Now you are going to have to grasp this and believe this if you are going to understand the position, the power, and the privilege that you have as a child of God.

We have a King as our Father who cares about His children. If you're a Christ follower, you're part of God's royal family. You can go right to Him and say, "Daddy, God, I need you." He cares about your struggles.

We are praying to a Father whose love desires the best for His children, whose wisdom decides the best for His children, and whose power delivers the best for His children.

2. He Is a Perfect Father.

We who are fathers are imperfect. We may want what is best for our children, we may know what is best for our children, but we can't always do what is best for our children. We are praying to a Father whose love desires the best for his children; whose wisdom decides the best for his children; and whose power delivers the best for his child.

"Hallowed be your name." Matthew 6:9

"Hallowed" only appears two times in the New Testament, in Matthew 6 and Luke 11, the two times we read the Lord's prayer. It is always used to contrast the profane. He is set apart from evil in our lives to be the cure for the profane in our lives.

"You shall not profane my holy name, for I must be hallowed as holy among the children of Israel. I am the LORD, who sanctifies you and who brought you out of Egypt to be your God. I am the LORD." Leviticus 22:32-33

"Jesus said to her, 'Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to my Father; But go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" John 20:27

3. He is a Powerful Father.

"Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Matthew 6:10

The reason the Kingdom could come is that the King had arrived. Jesus the King had come to take dominion over His creation. In the Old Testament, there's a lot of significance in a name. When they would name their children, these names would represent their character and their destiny.

God has many names in the Old Testament. There are many Hebrew names for our great God. Jehovah Jireh is "God my Provider," and so when we praying, "God, bring some Heaven to Earth today. We can say, Daddy, God, Father, I need you to provide for me."

Jesus said when He came, "I've come to preach the Good News of the Kingdom." He said, "The kingdom of God is near because I am near," and the disciples thought He was setting up an Earthly kingdom where He would declare Himself King, and that He would build a royal army, overthrow the Roman government, and take His rightful place as King. That's when they fought over who was going to be right there sitting next to Him on His left and His right because they thought He was going to set up an Earthly kingdom at first. Then Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world." But He said, "My kingdom is right here, and My kingdom is right here among you. My kingdom is here."

So what is the Kingdom of God? The Kingdom of God is wherever God is allowed to be King. The Kingdom of God is wherever God is allowed to rule and to reign, where God's rule and reign take precedence. That's where the Kingdom of God is, and right now the Kingdom of God is in Heaven. I mean, God rules and reigns in Heaven and one day He's going to rule and reign fully on this Earth when He returns. But right now He says, "I want to rule and reign in your life. I want to be King of your heart. I want to be King of your home. I want to be

King of your marriage, I want to be King of your family. I want to be King in your workplace. I want to be King in your community.”

God says, “Wherever I'm allowed to rule and reign, that's where my Kingdom comes, and so where does He want His Kingdom to come? Where are we to pray for God's Kingdom to come? On Earth as it is in Heaven.

We live in a very broken, sin-filled world. We live in a world of hurt and pain and sorrow, but God wants to bring some Heaven to your place on Earth today. That's God's will. He wants to bring some Heaven, the light of Heaven, into the darkness and open up your eyes to see how much He loves you. He wants to bring the light of Heaven into your relationships and bring healing. God wants to bring some Heaven to Earth, and that's what this whole series is about, how God can bring Heaven to Earth in your little bit of Earth.

The ancient Celtic Christians had a saying. They called certain places “thin places,” thin slice of heaven places. They used that description to describe places that they felt the barrier between Heaven and Earth got real thin, and where Heaven collided with Earth. It was where you could feel the presence of God a little more, where they would experience more miracles. They would experience God's presence and His love, and they would experience more of Heaven and God's blessings in their life. They had prayed along with the Lord's Prayer. They had agreed with God and His purpose that God wants to bring some Heaven to Earth. He wants to do some great things in our lives, and so as people prayed there, they called it a thin place.

It's really all about Christ and His presence and us agreeing with Him that we want Him to rule and to reign, to do what He wants to do. Over the next several weeks, we're going to see how God is going to do some amazing things in our hearts and lives throughout this series as we agree with Him and pray this prayer that He tells us to pray. But if we're really going to pray this prayer, and if we really want Heaven to come to Earth, and we really want to experience all of God's blessings in Heaven that He has for us down here, then we have to understand a little more of the Lord's Prayer.

Jehovah Shalom means “God of Peace.” We can say, “Father, I know that Your name, Your character, is peace, and I need Your peace from Heaven today.”

Jehovah Rapha means “healing.” We can say, “God, I know You're my healer, bring healing today.”

Jehovah Tsidkenu means “righteousness.” We can pray, “God, I need Your grace and forgiveness today. Apply Your righteousness to my life.”

That's who He is. “Hallowed be Your name.” Hallowed just means “lift up the name.”

“To those who have sorrow in Zion, I will give them a crown of beauty instead of ashes. I will give them the oil of joy instead of sorrow and a spirit of praise instead of a spirit of no hope.” Isaiah 61:3

When Heaven breaks through to the Earth, God restores brokenness and fills people with hope. You have broken emotions, and looking at the ashes of betrayal that have wounded you deeply, you feel like you'll never be enough. You feel like you have no value. God says, “I'm going to put a crown of beauty on your head. I'm going to break through and put a crown of beauty on your head because you're my princess. You're part of my royal family, you're one of my children, you're a prince, you're a princess. I just want you to know that you are mine, and you're beautiful and valuable.”

Maybe it's a broken relationship that God wants to repair. God wants to come and bring beauty out of the brokenness. He wants to bring a miracle out of your mess.

Maybe it's a broken body, or maybe it's a broken heart. God can restore. When Heaven breaks through, restoration takes place. We all have deep hurts and deep wounds. God is a God who restores. He can take the most broken things in life and put them together in such a way that He brings blessedness out of the brokenness.

In medieval times, stained glass was made by taking beach wood logs and burn them down until they were ash and then mix the ash with sand and heat it up and that would make the glass. They would melt metals down for the colors, but it was the ash that brought out the brilliant colors. God takes the ashes of our lives, the ashes of depression, the ashes of a broken relationship, the ashes of loss and grieving, the ashes of failure, the ashes of mistakes and sins.

If you're looking at a pile of ashes right now, God can take those ashes and use them to make something beautiful. As He shines His light through and brings you to life, He will do something beautiful and brilliant with the ashes. It's amazing how God does that, but when the light of Heaven shines through and Heaven comes to Earth, that's what happens.