

God First: Building a prayer-centered relationship with God – Week Two

What the Lord's Prayer Really Means, Pt. 1

Matthew 6:5-13

Main Idea: When Jesus began the “Lord’s Prayer” with, “*Pray, then, in this way,*” he was indicating that this prayer is a model prayer, a springboard prayer, designed to help us live a life of daily communion with God. If we pray this prayer, we will increasingly delight in the God who made us and loves us. But Jesus begins with...

1. *A WARNING – Don’t let your prayer life be influenced by the world.*

Matthew 6:5, 7

- A. The world (and the evil one) would love to mess up your prayer life. *Jesus identifies 2 problems...*
- B. There is the problem of showcase prayers.
- C. There is the problem of non-Christian (even anti-Christian) methods.

2. *1ST PRIORITY – Come to God in an intensely personal way. Matthew 6:8, 9b*

- A. Come to God as your Father. 6:9b
 - 1. Coming to God as Father would have been surprising to Jesus’ audience.
 - 2. Coming to God as Father would have been helpful to his audience.
 - 3. Coming to God as Father is a challenge for some.
- B. Come to God in community. 6:9b
 - 1. The words our Father imply that we should pray in community.
 - 2. Corporate prayer makes us feel God’s love more deeply. Matt. 18:20
 - 3. Corporate prayer trains us for private prayer.
- C. Come to God individually. 6:6
 - 1. Why you do this is important.
 - 2. Where you do this is important.

3. *2ND PRIORITY – Come to God with a passion for his glory, before you make your requests. Matthew 6:9c-10a*

- A. Notice the three “you” petitions.
 - 1. We’re to pray for God’s glory, specifically, “his name, his kingdom, and his will”.
 - 2. I believe it’s important, first, to link God’s name and his kingdom.
- B. When we pray for his name and his kingdom, we pray that his influence would spread.
 - 1. This looks to the far future, to his coming kingdom: He will rule. His name will be great.
 - 2. We do this by praying for Christ’s return. 1 Cor. 16:22; 2 Pet. 3:12; Rev. 22:20
 - 3. We do this by praying for local evangelism and world missions.
 - 4. We pray that we might be a living expression of God’s name and his kingdom.
- C. When we pray that his will be done, we pray his values might be expressed in this fallen world.
 - 1. Far future – When God’s kingdom comes, evil will cease...righteousness will reign.
 - 2. Near future – Pray this would begin now. It includes things like social justice, etc.

4. *A CAUTION – If you’re not careful, you can reverse the Lord’s Prayer and pray and anti-Lord’s prayer.*

The Anti-Lord's Prayer

Jesus' Prayer	Our Attitude
Jesus says, "Our Father who art in heaven..."	We say, "Our dispenser of blessings who art in heaven..."
Jesus says, "Hallowed by your name..."	And we say, "Lord, make my name great. I'd love a little fame here."
Jesus says, "Your kingdom come..."	We say, "Let my kingdom come. I want to live out the American dream stress free and problem free."
Jesus says, "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven..."	We say, "Lord, let my will be done so that I enjoy a little bit of heaven on earth."
Jesus says, "Give us this day our daily bread..."	We say, "Lord, I've already got plenty of daily bread, in fact, I've got daily croissants and Krispy Kremes. What I want is serious cash in the bank, so I don't have to trust you so much."
Jesus says, "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."	We say, "Lord, lots of people have hurt me. I'll forgive them when they apologize to me."
Jesus says, "And don't lead us into temptation; deliver us from evil."	We say, "Lord, I don't want testing or trials <i>of any sort</i> . Please just let me enjoy the good life."
Jesus says, "For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever."	And we say, "I want to enjoy my little kingdom; I want my little power; and I want my bit of glory for the rest of my days."