

The Lord's Prayer



⁹After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.

¹⁰Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

¹¹Give us this day our daily bread.

¹²And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

¹³And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. Matthew 6:9-13



The Lord's Prayer is the model prayer for all our prayers. It contains all the Five Elements of Prayer: Faith, Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication.

In verse 9 we see the First Element of Prayer which is Faith:

*Our Father **which art in heaven.***

This verse expresses faith in the existence of God. In Hebrews 11:6 it says: "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is (that He exists)."

In verse 9 we also see the Second Element of Prayer which is Adoration:

Hallowed be thy name.

When we come to God we must come with "reverence and godly fear" (Heb. 12:8). We are approaching a holy God and we are standing on holy ground

(Exod. 3:1-6; Isaiah 6:1-5). Dare not come into God's presence without preparation and thought (Eccl. 5:1-2).

In verse 12 we see the Third Element of Prayer which is Confession:

And forgive us our debts.

Forgiveness here does not refer to judicial forgiveness (for salvation) but parental forgiveness – that is, to be restored to fellowship with God as a believer and to restore the Father–child relationship. Without confession of sin, God will not hear us (Psalm 66:18; Isaiah 1:15).

In verse 13 we see the Fourth Element of Prayer which is Thanksgiving:

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

When we come to God we must bring our Thanksgiving and ascribe all glory to God (1 Chron. 29:10-15). We must not forget all His benefits (Psalm 103:1-20). The giving of thanks should be continually on our lips (Heb. 13:15).

In verse 11 we see the Fifth Element of Prayer which is Supplication:

Give us this day our daily bread.

In Supplication we bring our needs and petitions before God. We are not to offer Supplication only for our needs but for all the saints (Eph. 6:18) and for all those who are in authority here on earth (1 Tim. 2:1-2).

We also learn from "The Lord's Prayer" to address God as our Heavenly Father. What a privilege to be able to call God "Father." In 1 John 3:1 it says: "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!"

We also learn from this prayer in verse 10 to pray for God's Kingdom to come:

Thy kingdom come.

We are to pray for the advancement of the gospel and for God to reign in the hearts of His people. In 2 Thess. 3:1 it says: "Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you."

We also learn in verse 10 to pray according to the will of God:

Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

For "If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us." 1 John 5:14

In verse 12 we learn that when we pray we have to forgive those who sinned against us:

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

If we do not forgive others, God will not forgive us (Matt. 6:14-15; Mark 11:25-26).

And finally in verse 13 we learn that we should pray for God to help us resist temptations and to protect us from the Evil One, Satan:

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Matthew Henry explains the meaning of “And lead us not into temptation”:

Having prayed that the guilt of sin may be removed, we pray, as it is fit, that we may never return again to folly, that we may not be tempted to it. It is not as if God tempted any to sin; but, "Lord, do not let Satan loose upon us; chain up that *roaring lion*, for he is subtle and spiteful; Lord, do not leave us to ourselves (Ps. 19:13), for we are very weak; Lord, do not *lay stumbling-blocks* and snares before us, nor put us into circumstances that may be *an occasion of falling*." Temptations are to be prayed against, both because of the discomfort and trouble of them, and because of the danger we are in of being overcome by them, and the guilt and grief that then follow.

The Lord's Prayer is the model for all our prayers. It is not intended by our Lord that whenever we pray we should pray this prayer. This is the model and pattern of how our prayers should be. We must be careful not to fall into the danger of empty prayers and vain repetitions of which our hearts are not into it (Matt. 6:7).



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