



DIGGING DEEPER

# THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matt 6:9-13

'In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. Matthew 6:9-13

In every verse of scripture in the Bible there are several layers of depth we can dig into. In this series, we are looking at what Jesus gave us as a pattern for prayer which we typically call, The Lord's Prayer. While we often repeat this word for word, let's spend the next few days digging deeper into this scripture.

Our prayer is that the Lord will grant us wisdom and revelation through this series so we increase in the knowledge of Him.

Stay connected.



## Day 1 Relationship

Our Father .....

The first line of the prayer reveals the heart of God to us concerning how He wants us to relate with Him. Note that Jesus did not refer to the Lord as our Creator, our Judge, or even our Master. He called Him our Father. The Lord, the giver of life, maker of all things seen and unseen, the master of the universe, the one who calls those things which be not as though they are and then they come to be. This same Lord is our Father.

'For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord , thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.' Jeremiah 29:11

Because He is our Father, we can then approach Him with the understanding that He loves us and wants the very best for us. As any good Father does, He puts plans in place for His children, trains them and leaves them an inheritance.

For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." Romans 8:15

'And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Galatians 4:6

When Jesus completed His earthly ministry, believers who accepted Jesus as Lord and savior were given the Holy Spirit as gift and helper. When we received the Holy Spirit, we also received the spirit of adoption, meaning we were adopted into Christ's heavenly family. And as family members, we also have the right to call the Lord 'Abba' which expresses warm affection and confidence. The closest term in English language would probably be 'Daddy'. This means God doesn't want to be distant from us or seen as an entity that should only be approached with formality and trembling. He wants us to relate to Him in openness, honesty and trust because His love for us has opened the way for a personal relationship with Him.

**Reflect:** We have access to an intimate relationship with God as well as access to the opportunity to be his confidants and partners here on earth. What an awesome privilege! So when next we say 'Our Father', let's say it with the understanding of all this relationship gives us access to.



## Day 2

### Position

Who is in heaven...

When we pray it's key we know the direction our prayers are going. The Bible tells us in Isaiah 66:1 and Psalm 11:4 that heaven is the Lord's throne and earth is His footstool. That's why Jesus makes it clear that when we pray, we should direct our prayers to Him in heaven. This is important because when we understand that we're connecting with One on a higher realm than us, it helps us put our prayers in perspective. No matter how large we think the issue we are bringing before the Lord is, we must understand that no issue is too big for Him.

'which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church' Ephesians 1:20-22

'and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus' Ephesians 2:6

It's also important that we understand our own spiritual position when we accept Jesus as our Lord and savior. Jesus is seated Far Above all things and everything has been placed under His feet. As believers, we also have a spiritual position in Christ. Which means because we are seated in Him, we are also far above all issues, challenges and everything that attempts to frustrate, discourage, distract or bring us down. As believers we have authority over everything taking place in the earthly realm because we are operating from above in the power of Jesus.

1 John 4:17b shares a very powerful truth we should meditate on as we reflect on our position: So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world.'

**Reflect:** Check every aspect of your life and answer this question for yourself: Are you really living like Jesus?



## Day 3

### Reverence

Hallowed be Your name

To hallow something means to give it great respect, reverence and honour. Jesus shows by this prayer pattern that God is to be treated with reverence and we shouldn't get to the point of treating our relationship with the Lord with levity. If we are to be truly honest, there will certainly have been times where we did not give the Lord the respect He deserves. It could be in the manner we speak about Him, not respecting times we agreed to meet with Him in prayer or choosing to set aside things we know would be pleasing to Him to do other things.

'The Lord of hosts, Him you shall hallow; Let Him be your fear, and let Him be your dread.'  
Isaiah 8:13

'and said: "O Lord God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand is there not power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You? ' 2 Chronicles 20:6

'For our God is a consuming fire.' Hebrews 12:29

'For who in the heavens can be compared to the Lord? Who among the sons of the mighty can be likened to the Lord? God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be held in reverence by all those around Him.' Psalms 89:6-7

Hallowing God's name helps us keep in mind aspects about His nature that set Him apart from anything or anyone else – He is omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient. No other being is all these. This great God is also our Father who draws us close to Him, but we shouldn't take this access to Him for granted. If Jesus the Son of God treated His Father with reverence, we cannot contemplate doing any less.

**Reflect:** Make a conscious effort to remind yourself frequently about the greatness of our God. Don't let familiarity turn to disrespect.



## Day 4

### Kingdom

“Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” Matthew 6:10

This line reveals the crux of Lord’s plan for us: that we will be vessels used to carry out His will here on earth as it’s being done in heaven. Understanding that there’s a kingdom dimension to your walk here on earth is so important that Jesus referred to it twice in the prayer. Not only that, it was the primary focus of the messages Jesus preached during His earthly ministry.

If you do a review of the teachings of Jesus, you will observe that at some point He would definitely make some form of reference to the kingdom of heaven. Hopefully this shows us how important it is for us to understand that our goal should not just be to receive Jesus and wait to go to heaven. We have also received divine enablement to demonstrate the principles of heaven here on earth.

‘From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”’ Matthew 4:17

‘The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord’s; But the earth He has given to the children of men.’ Psalms 115:16

The reason we aren’t swept to heaven immediately we accept Jesus as our Lord and saviour is because we are supposed to cultivate a relationship with our helper the Holy Spirit who will transform us from within to be effective ambassadors of heaven here on earth. The Lord has made us managers of the earth and we are to run things within our spheres of influence according to God’s principles. There is meant to be a clear distinction between the way we respond to life and the way someone who doesn’t have the gift of the Holy Spirit responds.

And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you forbid or bind, or lock on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit or loose, or open on earth will be permitted in heaven.” Matthew 16:19

‘Don’t you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself’ 1 Corinthians 6:19

We shouldn’t live our lives as victims of circumstances. Because the same Holy Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead lives in us, we have all the power we need to change more things than we realize.

**Reflect:** You are an ambassador of heaven and have already been equipped with everything you need to enforce God’s will here on earth as it is in heaven. Don’t settle for less.

## Day 5

### Provision

'Give us this day our daily bread.' Matthew 6:11

This part of the prayer reveals to us that we should depend on the Lord for daily sustenance and acknowledge Him as the provider of all we need each day. When we talk about provision, it's easy to think only about material things - clothes, food, shelter. But one of the characteristics of the Lord is revealed in one of His names: Jehovah Jireh - the Lord our provision. This means anything at all that we need, He can provide. Be it talents, skills, health, soundness of mind, strength and so much more.

“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ... For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.”  
Matthew 6:31,32b

“See, I have written your name on the palms of my hands..” Isaiah 49:16a

'But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.' Matthew 6:33

Jesus shows us that we should focus on God being our source not only when we want something (a promotion, a new item, financed, etc.) but on a daily basis for things that seem basic. He knows us intimately and knows exactly what we need and when we need it. We are to trust God for everything. When we see the Lord as the source and owner of all that we have and all that we are, it changes our perspective on how we live life.

It also changes our perspective on giving: ourselves, gifts, time, financial substance, etc. Because when we realize that God is the source of all things, we come to the understanding that we don't actually own anything but are just custodians of what's been placed in our care.

**Reflect:** Who are you trusting for provision today?



## Day 6

### Forgiveness

“And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.” Matthew 6:12

Forgiveness is really important to God. Unforgiveness is not only toxic to our physical system, it causes a rift in our relationship with God. Remember Jesus died for us while we were still in sin. He forgave us, washed us clean of all our sins and opened the door for a relationship with Him.

“And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.” Mark 11:25

When we come to God in prayer, we should first search our hearts and answer honestly - are we harbouring unforgiveness in our hearts? The Lord requires that we forgive as we have already been forgiven by Him. But how possible is this, especially when the person doesn't deserve it.

“Then Peter came to him and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?” “No, not seven times,” Jesus replied, “but seventy times seven!” Matthew 18:21-22

Imagine forgiving 70x7 times. Even if you were numbering you'll likely lose count at some point, which is essentially what Jesus was saying - just forgive. Not necessarily for the sake of the person you're forgiving, but so your own prayers won't be hindered and nothing causes a rift between you and God. Forgive because Jesus shows you mercy daily. Forgive so your gifts and activities before God will be acceptable to Him.

“Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing.” Luke 23:34a

Having suffered shame and intense agony through the crucifixion process, Jesus would have been justified in placing a curse, but what He did instead was to ask God to forgive them. He places the same demand on us that He places on Himself, because He knows there is grace available to us through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Reflect:** Have you been hurt deeply and are finding it difficult to forgive? First be honest with the Holy Spirit and tell him why you don't want to forgive the person(s). Then ask the Holy Spirit to help you forgive because it's only by His help you can do it.





## Day 7

### Temptation

'And don't let us yield to temptation' Matthew 6:13a (NLT)

We all get tempted at some point in time by things we want to do/say/have but know we shouldn't. We all at some point have given in to a temptation we knew very well at the time that we shouldn't. The issue isn't being tempted – it's whether we yield to the temptation or not. Jesus clearly understood the limitations of the human condition and so He makes us aware that we shouldn't try to use willpower alone to keep ourselves from yielding to temptation.

No one will succeed by strength alone. 1 Samuel 2:9b

"What sorrow awaits the world, because it tempts people to sin. Temptations are inevitable... Matthew 18:7a

'And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, "God is tempting me." God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.' James 1:13-15

Every temptation is an opportunity for us to give either the Lord or sin the upper hand. Remember the devil's ultimate goal is to steal, kill and destroy. Temptation is one of the tools he uses to achieve this. As James shows us above, when we yield to temptation, we open the door to sin which gives the enemy room to move in and amplify our area of weakness. It's never just about the temptation alone, it's about the multiplier effect it can have in your life.

'The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.' 1 Corinthians 10:13

The Lord understands the enemy's strategy which is why He always makes a way of escape for us when we're facing temptation. What we need to do at the point of temptation is to ask the Lord to reveal the way of escape He's made so we do not fall.

**Reflect:** Is there an area of your life you're struggling with and constantly yielding to temptation? Jesus already paid the price for whatever you're going through. Stop trying to overcome in your own strength, ask Him to help you and show you the way out.



## Day 8

### Deliverance

“But deliver us from the evil one...” Matthew 6:13

We should not be ignorant of the wiles of the enemy. As we said yesterday, the devil’s focus is to steal, kill and destroy. And more often than not we may not be aware of what’s going on behind the scenes. So, we depend on the Lord to help us and deliver us from all the things the evil one has planned against us.

“And the LORD shall help them and deliver them; He shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in Him.” Psalms 37:40

“Who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us” 2 Corinthians 1:10

The first point of deliverance is putting our trust in the Lord and not trying to depend on our own strength. When we put our trust in the Lord, we’re saying that we’re totally dependent on Him and His divine ability to deliver us from any and all devises of the evil one. We need the Lord because without His help we won’t even know what to pray/speak against until it happens, and by then it may be too late.

“When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard against him.” Isaiah 59:19b

“He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.” Colossians 2:14-15

“He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.” I John 4:4b

The second point is knowing what Jesus did for us at the cross. When Jesus died on the cross, He wiped away all the things the enemy had written over us, disarmed every spiritual ruler and authority and gave us victory. So we already have victory and the devil doesn’t have any right to direct the issues of our lives. But the enemy is very crafty. If you don’t know who you are and what Jesus has done for you, you will continue to act as though the devil is still in charge over your life and he will let you do so.

**Reflect:** If you have the Holy Spirit, you already have victory. So when issues come up, you have the right and the authority to defeat the enemy by reminding him what Jesus already did for you on the cross.

Thanks for completing the study. We'll love to hear from you, so please connect with us on:

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