

Thoughts on The Lord's Prayer

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Introduction: [Listen to Audio](#)

I would like to share a few thoughts on the Lord's Prayer found in Matthew 6. A very simple prayer, yet profound beyond description.

Matthew 6:9 ¶ After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

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

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

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

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

The Lord's disciples came to Him and said, "Lord teach us to pray the way that John taught his disciples" (Luke 11:1). They had seen Jesus pray and had observed the close communion that He had with His Father. They didn't want dead formality and ritual. They wanted to be able to touch heaven just as He did. They wanted the same live connection that Jesus had. So, Jesus gave them and us an outline of how we should pray.

Our Father which art in heaven:

When we say, Our Father, we are acknowledging our position compared to His. He is the Father, we are the children. He is the Master, we are the servant. He is infinite, we are finite. He is our head and our sovereign who is omnipotent, all seeing, all knowing and everywhere present throughout His whole creation. Being our Father we depend on Him and we also recognize that we have an inheritance in Him, because we are His sons and daughters.

He dwells in heaven, He is the high and lofty one who inhabits eternity - but He is pleased to dwell with us who have a humble and contrite heart.

Isaiah 57:15 For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

His ways are not our ways, nor His thoughts our thoughts. He said that His thoughts and ways are higher than ours just as the heavens are higher than the earth (Isaiah 55:9).

Isaiah 55:8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Well, it's 93,000,000 miles to the sun and that's just the beginning of the heavens. Somebody has said that we are just a speck on a speck in the great universe that our God created.

The Psalmist reflecting upon God's great creation, asked the question in Psalms 8:4, "What is man that you are mindful of him? He said, "When I consider the heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained, "What is man that thou art mindful of him or the son of man that thou visitest him?" Well He is ever mindful of us and He did visit us in the person of Christ Jesus and we are ever grateful for it.

Hallowed be thy name:

God's name is Holy. His name denotes all that He is, has been or will become. He is Jehovah-Jireh our provider and we know that He revealed Himself to us by other compound names. When the angel announced the birth of our Lord, He said His name will be called Jesus - or Jehovah Savior who would save His people from their sins (Luke 1:31). The apostle reminds us in Acts 4:12 that there is no other name given under heaven, whereby men may be saved. Paul tells us that every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that the name of Jesus is above every name and that He is Lord of all (Philippians 2:9-11).

He is the I AM, the self-existent One who spoke to Moses out of the bush and said I Am the I Am and this will be my name forever and my memorial to all generations (Exodus 3:15).

Jesus claimed that name and said, I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life (John 14:6), the door (John 10:7), the living bread of heaven (John 6:51). He topped off the list in Revelation 1:8 by saying I Am.....the Almighty.

Thy Kingdom Come:

God's kingdom is in the hearts of believers (Luke 17:21), it is the most powerful kingdom on earth, yet it has no guns, no tanks and no bombs (John 18:36). It is a kingdom of righteousness joy and peace in the Holy Ghost (Romans 14:17). Psalms 2 tells us that the kings of the earth are united against the kingdom of our Lord and His Christ and that they seek to destroy it. The Lord simply laughs at their effort and reminds us that He has set His king (Jesus) to reign over His kingdom .

We've seen enough of the kingdoms of this world to know that things will never change until the Lord Jesus reigns as King over all the earth (Zechariah 14:9).

When He reigns, Satan will have been bound, sin will no longer have dominion, peace will dominate to the point that the wolf will lay down by the lamb and a little child will lead them about.

Isaiah 11:6 The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

I'm reminded of the song: What Day That Will Be.

*What a day that will be - When my Jesus I will see
When I look upon His face- The One who saved me by His grace
And forever I will be - With the One who died for me
What a Day, Glorious Day that will be*

Somebody Has Said

"Do not have your concert first, and then tune your instrument afterwards. Begin the day with the Word of God and prayer, and get first of all into harmony with Him." - Hudson Taylor

Thoughts on the Lord's Prayer - Part 2 [Listen to Audio](#)

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

We will continue our remarks on the Lord's Prayer. As we stated, it is an outline of how we should pray. I remember reciting this prayer daily in grade school. That was good and I wish that all of our children had the same privilege today. However when we recite something such as this by rote it is quite possible, and more than likely, that we will not realize just how much depth each phrase contains. There is much more depth to each phrase than we can cover here, but we'll scratch the surface with a few thoughts for your consideration.

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

The question can rightly be asked, "What is the will of God?" One thing we know for sure; the will of God is diametrically opposed to our human wills. My will urges me to be number one at the expense of others. My natural instinct is to gain as much of this world's goods as possible, without regard to others. Jesus gave us a perfect example of submitting our will to God when He prayed in the garden, "Nevertheless, not my will but thy will be done." Philippians 2:5-8 urges us be of the same mind as Jesus. Although He was God, He didn't cling to His prerogatives as God, but He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

*Philippians 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:
6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:
7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:
8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

God legislated His will when He gave His law to Moses on Mt. Sinai, namely the Ten Commandments. We remember that when Jesus was questioned as to which was the greatest commandment He replied that if we loved God with all our hearts and our neighbor as ourselves we would fulfill all the law and the prophets.

*Matthew 22:37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.
38 This is the first and great commandment.
39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.
40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.*

Jesus demonstrated the perfect application of the law and will of God that was legislated on Sinai in The Sermon on the Mount of which the Lord's Prayer is a part. In this sermon we are given specific instruction as to what the will of God is.

Jesus told us that not everybody who shouts "Lord, Lord" or who has even done mighty works in His name will enter the kingdom. Only those who have done the will of the Father. Sobering thought, isn't it?

Matthew 7:21 ¶ Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Jesus is our pattern on fulfilling the will of God. The agony of the cross wasn't pleasant, but it was necessary. In fact the cross was and is the crux or focus of

God's will from eternity past. In the mind of God, Calvary was already an accomplished fact. Jesus was a Lamb slain before the foundations of the world (Revelation 13:8) and our names were written in The Lamb's book of life at the same time (Ephesians 1:4). Before time even began, God determined after the council of His own will to bring all things together in One, even in Christ (Ephesians 1:9-11).

God is not willing that any should perish (John 3:17; II Peter 3:9) but that all will come to the knowledge of the truth and believe on Jesus. If we fulfill God's will by believing and obeying the gospel, we have His promise of being raised up to eternal life. If we won't believe we have a promise of damnation (Mark 16:16). That hard, but it is the word of God so we best take heed.

John 6:40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Our conformity to the world is our greatest hindrance to letting the will of God have full reign in our lives. When our minds are filled with triviality and weighed down with the cares of life, we lose our focus (Luke 8:14, 21:34) . When we allow our minds to be renewed by God's word and Spirit, we reject the trash of this world and focus on that which has eternal value.

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

None of us is perfect in comprehending, much less fulfilling the will of God. It is a progressive work in our lives which cannot be neglected. Paul prayed continually that the Colossians would have such wisdom and understanding of God's will.

Colossians 1:9 ¶ For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

Hebrews 13:21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

This is my prayer and I'm sure it is your's also. " Lord Jesus, help me to know and to do your will. Help me Lord to see as you see and to feel as you feel. Help me Lord to weigh each though and motive against the precepts of your eternal word. That I can truly say with conviction, "Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven."

Somebody Has Said

"Just as a servant knows that he must first obey his master in all things, so the surrender to an implicit and unquestionable obedience must become the essential characteristic of our lives." - Andrew Murray

Thoughts on the Lords Prayer - Part 3 [Listen to Audio](#)

Give us This Day, Our Daily Bread

Continuing on with the Lord's Prayer. We are up to the phrase, Give us this day our daily Bread. Seven utterly profound words of Jesus that have a two-fold application: Spiritual and Natural.

Speaking of the Spiritual:

Matthew 4:4 tells us that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.

We remember how that God fed Israel daily with manna from heaven while they were wandering in the desert. They were instructed to gather only enough for that day's needs. Well, some of them tried to stockpile it and it spoiled and smelled. It's the same way with our Christian walk and experience. We simply can't live on yesterday's blessing. It smells.

Jesus said that He was that living bread that came down from heaven and gave His life for the world - John 6:33. He is the living Word and He and He alone has what we need to get through each day without worrying about tomorrow. We need the Bread and word of Heaven that proceeds from the mouth of God to refresh us daily.

He has the hairs of our heads numbered and He reminds us that we are incapable of increasing or decreasing our height. He feeds the lilies and ravens, neither of which have storehouse or barn, but God in His provision provides for them and they reflect His glory.

Jesus the Bread of heaven gave His life for the world that we might live for Him and be reconciled to God - May we feast on this fact daily.

Going on to the natural:

Jesus in Matthew 6:25 said that we should take no thought for tomorrow, what we should eat or drink or what we are going to wear. He reminds us that life is more than food and our bodies more than raiment. He asks if we are not much better than the fowls of the air whom God feeds daily, even though they don't

store their food up in barns and storehouses. What a contrast He paints here. Jesus is simply saying that God has given us our life and our bodies, which are a very great treasure. He will never fail to give us the things that our life and our bodies need.

When Jesus said, "take no thought," He wasn't telling us to sit and do nothing as we wait for dollars to fall from heaven and engulf us. Some teach that, but I don't believe it. He is simply saying that we need to have a proper perspective between the temporal and the eternal.

In Luke 12:15 Jesus tells us to beware of covetousness because a man's life does not consist of the abundance of things that he possesses. We must be careful to rely on the Lord for our daily need - not to fulfill our never ending greed.

You know, a few years back we had a lot of instant millionaires during the dot.com boom. Some of these folks became paupers overnight. We could wake up in the morning and find out that the government has devalued our almighty dollar. It has happened elsewhere. We can take great pride in our homes and then see them disappear before our eyes when we're faced with something like Katrina, or a flood or tornado.

Nothing stays the same. Markets and world conditions change continually, which affects our jobs and livelihood. We can be up one day and down the next. While we are instructed to not be unduly worried about tomorrow, that does not rule out any forethought and planning. We see in John 12:7 that even Jesus made provision for some of the cost of His burial.

We can take our worries and concerns to the Lord and He will help us with the decisions that affect tomorrow. Proverbs 3:6 tells us that if we acknowledge Him in all of our ways, he will direct our paths.

May we remember the words of I Timothy 6:6 "Godliness with contentment is great gain."

May we rejoice and be grateful for God's daily provision, both natural and spiritual. May we always remember that we are to lay up our treasure in heaven and not on this earth. Our earthly treasure can be stolen or destroyed. Our heaven treasure is eternal.

Somebody Has Said

"Why do you need a voice when you have a verse." Jim Elliot

Thoughts on the The Lord's Prayer - Part 4 [Listen to Audio](#)
Forgive Us Our Debts as We Forgive Our Debtors

Going on with the Lord's Prayer, we come to:

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

Our debts as shown in other passages such as Luke 11:4 are our sins and trespasses. We all stand in need of forgiveness, both from God and from each other. James said that we offend many people in many ways, and that the man who didn't offend in word was a perfect man. Well, that's not me! I need forgiveness quite often, both from God and from man. Speaking of forgiveness, Jesus didn't beat around the bush, He said that if we won't forgive our fellow man, we need not expect the forgiveness of God.

Matthew 6:14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

I believe that forgiveness has many undesirable side effects such as stress and it's resulting health and emotional problems. If we won't forgive, we internalize the problem and we're the ones that suffers, not the person who offended us.

We are told to forgive just as Christ has forgiven us. We remember the instructions for discerning the Lord's body, when we take the communion cup. Paul said that many were sick and weak because they did not discern it, and that some had even died. Certainly, not forgiving as Christ has forgiven me, would be a failure to discern the Lord's body.

I believe that if we follow our Lord's instructions to forgive, we'll have a lot fewer doctor's visits and we won't have near as many medications to take. Want to cut your medical bills? Forgive!

We remember Peter asking Jesus, "Lord, how many time do I have to forgive my brother? Seven?" "No," Jesus using a bit of hyperbole or exaggerating to make a point, said, "Seventy times seven."

That's over 20 times an hour or once every 3 minutes. Not likely that any person could offend us that often, but how often do we offend God and stand in need of forgiveness? The equation changes when we look at it in that light, doesn't it?

Jesus continued His answer to Peter with the [*Parable of the Unmerciful Servant*](#) in Matthew 18. A servant who had been forgiven a very large debt, found a man who owed him a rather small amount. The man couldn't pay and asked for mercy which was refused. he was cast into prison until he could pay the debt. I assume he died there. When the Master of the unmerciful servant heard of it, he was enraged. the fellow was delivered to the tormentors until, he could pay that which had originally been forgiven.

Once again we come to a hard saying of Jesus.

Matthew 18:35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

We are enjoined in:

Colossians 3:13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

So what do I do when I'm agitated and peeved over the actions of another. Do I hold on to it? Brood? Gossip? Run the person down? NO, I must forgive and forgive from the heart. Like the man in the parable, I'm been forgiven much and my sins were placed under the precious blood of Jesus. When i weigh my account against whatever wrong has been committed against me, there's really no comparison. If I refuse to forgive my brother, it's actually an insult to the blood of Jesus that was shed on my behalf

My prayer then is, "Lord help me to let it go and to forgive freely, just as You forgave me.

Somebody Has Said

"To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable, because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you." - C.S.Lewis

Thoughts on the The Lord's Prayer - Part 5 [Listen to Audio](#)

Lead Us Not into Temptation

We are now at the last verse of the Lord's Prayer. It contains two phrases which are joined by the conjunction "for." Which in this case would be understood to mean since or because.

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

In other words, "Lord we belong to you and your kingdom. We've confessed and repented of our sins and have been washed in the precious blood of Jesus. We know that Satan is going about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour (I Peter 5:8), but greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world (I John 4:4)."

James told us not to say that we are tempted of God (James 1:13), because it would be against His holy nature to tempt one of His children to sin. Rather, we are tempted when we are led astray of our own lust. This places the responsibility squarely on us. When I find myself being tempted, I need to remember the old computer term GIGO (Garbage IN Garbage Out). What am I reading? What am I watching? What am I singing? What about my prayer life?

Colossians 3:17 tells us that whatever we do, in word or in deed, do all in the name of Jesus, giving glory to God the Father by Him. Conversely, I should avoid anything at all that does not glorify God. If I continue in doing things that do not glorify God, I need not wonder why I am bombarded with temptation. Temptations will come to us all, but we don't have to make the adversary's job any easier. Do we?

We remember Paul's admonition in Colossians 3:8-9 to put off the things of the flesh.

*Colossians 3:8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.
9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;*

While we put on the things of the Spirit - Colossians 3:10-14

Colossians 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

When we are tempted, it is good to remember Jesus, our pattern and example. It behooved Him to be made like us that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God (Hebrews 2:17). He was tempted in all the same points as we, but yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15). Because He was tempted He is able to succour or comfort those who are likewise tempted (Hebrews 2:18). Scripture also reminds us that God will not allow us to be tempted above what we can bear and that with every temptation, we have a way of escape (I Corinthians 10:13).

We can avoid much temptation by simply having our mind in the right place. As a man thinks, so is he (Proverbs 23:7).

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

The kingdom, the power and the glory belong to Jesus and we are joint heirs with Him (Romans 8:17), but nothing will enter that hasn't been washed in His blood (Revelation 21:27).

Jesus is our Mediator (Hebrews 8:6, 9:15, 12:24), our High Priest (Hebrews 9:11) and our Advocate (I John 2:1) between God and man. He intercedes on our behalf (Hebrews 7:25) and He's pulling for us. When we find that Satan is trying to beset us, we have the right and the privilege to approach the throne of God boldly in time of trouble (Hebrews 4:16). We can be assured that when we cry out to Him, He will hear and deliver (Isaiah 42:3; Matthew 12:20). With assurance like that, we can't fail.

Somebody Has Said

"I have seen many men work without praying, though I have never seen any good come out of it; but I have never seen a man pray without working." - Hudson Taylor

Don Spooner 11-1-2011
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