

The Lord's Prayer

by Pastor Ed Terry Delivered 07-29-18

Ephesians 3:14 – 21; 1st John 5: 1 – 15; John 15: 1 – 17; **Matthew 6: 5 – 15 (Sermon)**

Last week we looked at the introduction to what we refer to as The Lord's Prayer.

At that time we looked at how not to pray and we learned what it means when we pray "***Our Father***".

It is so important for us to understand the meaning of "***Our Father***" that I want to briefly review the significance of praying to "***Our Father***".

The Greek word for "***Father***" used in verse 9 of our text is "***Abba***" which the familiar form; it is like "Daddy" or "Papa".

For our prayers to be powerful and effective we must have an established personal relationship with Jesus Christ who is the only mediator between God and man. (1st Timothy 2:5)

"For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus ..."

The word "***our***" reinforces this concept of a personal relationship.

When we say "***Our Father***" we are showing respect, we are acknowledging God's authority, and we are submitting to our Heavenly Father.

So you see when we pray "***Our Father***" we are not just repeating empty words!

The right to call Almighty God "***Our Father***" it is not something you have earned but rather it is a privilege Jesus earned for you.

It is an awesome privilege to come to The Creator of the entire universe and say, "***Our Father***".

When we say "***in heaven***" in our prayers we are reminded that we are not approaching an earthly father who is limited in his presence or in his capabilities.

We are approaching the creator and ruler of the universe.

Prayer is the bridge between our earthly circumstances and heaven's unlimited power and resources.

The 1st partition in The Lord's Prayer is; "***Hallowed be your name***" is in verse 9.

"Hallowed" means holy.

We must come to God with a holy reverence.

Only God deserves to be called holy.

Our familiar personal relationship with God is not contradictory to a holy reverence of God.

The Bible teaches us there is a wonderful balance between having total awe and reverence for God and our personal relationship with our Heavenly Father.

When we pray “**Hallowed be your name**” we are reminded that we are a sinful person and that it is only through Christ Jesus that we are declared righteous.

It is only through Jesus that we are fully acceptable to God.

It is only through Jesus that we have full access to Almighty God.

We must never forget how holy God is and He alone is the only person we are to worship.

“**Your name**” – His name represents who God is.

His name represents God’s character and all of God’s attributes.

God is love, God is truth, God is light, God is life, God is peace, God is all-powerful, God is eternal, God is holy, God is merciful, and God is always present.

When we say, “**hallowed be your name**” we are acknowledging there is no other person like God.

We are coming before The Almighty in awe of His majesty, power, and glory.

Psalm 29:2 reminds us to “**Ascribe to The Lord the glory due His name; worship the Lord in the splendor of His holiness.**”

In this prayer Jesus is teaching us the correct attitude in prayer?

Before we ever make one petition concerning our needs, we need to get our attitude right toward God.

I need to get my priorities right.

When I say “**Hallowed be your name**” I am saying up front, *Lord I don’t want any of my prayer request answered that does not bring holiness to your name.*

I am saying Lord your glory is far more important to me than my personal comfort.

Lord your honor is much more important than my promotion.

You see I can never ask amiss if I have honestly prayed, “**Hallowed be your name.**”

The 2nd and 3rd requests are in verse 10. “**Your kingdom come**”. *Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*”

The Kingdom of God is God’s rule.

Did you ever think how God’s will is done in heaven?

In heaven God’s will is done in perfect obedience.

Every angel, every created being, every saint does nothing but the will of God.

In heaven God's will is done immediately and God's will is done joyfully.

So when we pray, "***Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven***" we are asking God to completely rule over every aspect of our lives.

We are saying we will do whatever God wants immediately, joyfully, and we will do it to the very best of our ability.

As Christians we are to look forward to the day Jesus returns in His glorified body and destroys all evil on this earth.

When Christ returns God's will will be done on earth.

We pray for the coming Kingdom of God when righteousness will be uncontested and every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord.

In the meantime when we pray, "***Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven***", we are saying, "*Jesus I willingly submit my life to your Lordship because I know who you are and I know you always do what is best for me.*"

We are saying, "*Lord I only want to do what is pleasing to you and I will joyfully do it as quickly and as best as I can.*"

When we pray, "***Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven***", we are saying, we will apply God's will to every situation we encounter.

We are saying "*Lord I am committed to your will even if it runs counter to what I think I want you to do.*"

We want God's will to be done in everything we say or do because there is absolutely nothing better than God's will to be done.

When we pray "***Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven***" it is our acknowledgement of God's wisdom, God's sovereignty, and God's right to rule everything in my life and everything else on earth.

Can you imagine the angel Gabriel saying, "*Lord, you want me to do what???*"

Or "*Lord get someone else to do it I am really busy.*"

Or "*Lord, I don't think that is a good idea.*"

Can you imagine any angel complaining about serving The Lord?

You see in heaven everything is done immediately and joyfully because every heavenly being knows who God is and they are so grateful for all that God has done.

In the first 3 petitions Jesus stresses our relationship with God our Heavenly Father, whereas the last 3 petitions stress our dependence upon God our heavenly father.

You see it is only after we are in a right relationship with God and after we have put ourselves in the proper attitude that we are ready to approach God's throne of grace with our needs.

God is not a God that wants His people to be in want.

It is after we have surrendered our will to God's will that our needs will be addressed.

We also find is that our needs and our desires will dwindle as we seek God's will in our life.

When we truly seek God's will first, God will honor our submission and God will give us much more than our daily needs.

The 4th petition which is in verse 11 says; "***Give us today our daily bread***".

Notice this partition is short and this request is limited to what we need today; not for the rest of our life, but only for today.

Coming to God each day keeps us thankful and reminds us that we are totally dependent upon God for everything.

Remember God gave the Children of Israel manna in the wilderness each day.

And Deuteronomy 8:18 says "***But remember The Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth***".

Jesus used bread to represent all of our physical needs.

We are to trust God to meet all of our physical needs as well as all of our spiritual needs.

And we are to be content with what our heavenly Father provides.

This request is not for what we want but what we need.

If we are honest with ourselves, most of our prayers are telling God what we want not what we need.

The brevity of this request also tells us we do not have to beg and plead with God to meet every one of our needs.

In this request we are asking our heavenly Father to take care of us just as a child looks to their earthly father to care for them.

In Philippians 4:19 The Apostle Paul writes, "***And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.***"

We are to ask in faith knowing that God loves us and that God will provide for all of our needs.

This request "***Give us today our daily bread***" is an expression of our total dependence upon God.

It is a humble recognition that we can not take care of ourselves.

The next or 5th petition is in verse 12. “***Forgive us our debts as we have forgiven our debtors.***”

Friends this is a tough standard we are asking God to impose upon us.

In effect we are saying, “*God do not forgive me unless I forgive everyone who wrongs me.*”

Luke used the word “*sin*” in his version of Jesus teaching His disciples how to pray whereas Matthew used “*debtors*”.

When we combine these two thoughts we are reminded that sinners are debtors to God for violating God’s Holy Law.

Remember Romans 6:23 “*The wages of sin is death.*”

In this petition we are asking God to forgive our spiritual debts.

Jesus paid the price of our sins and we ask Jesus to save us and to secure our eternal home in heaven.

The good news is that we can not lose our salvation because Jesus is the one who secured our salvation for us.

However, as you are well aware we all still have our sinful nature.

All Christians sin and sin adversely affects our relationship with God.

So we need to continuously ask God to forgive us of our sins.

Psalm 66:18 tells us that God will not hear our prayers if we have sin in our heart.

Unconfessed sin severely affects our prayer life.

If we refuse to confess our sins and/or if we refuse to forgive our neighbor we have no right to expect God to answer our prayers.

However, the good news is in 1st John 1:9. “***If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.***”

We just need to swallow our pride and we need to admit our failure and admit our disobedience.

We just need to humble ourselves before The Lord and be quick to forgive any and everyone that offends us.

You see forgiveness is a choice we make.

Forgiveness is not a feeling.

The point is this; we have to recognize that we are dirty before Jesus can make us clean.

The sixth petition is in verse 13. “***Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.***”

This is another admission of our dependence on God.

We need and we want The Lord to lead us everyday.

1st Peter 5:8 warns us to stay alert because “***our enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.***”

Lets face it, we are not good at avoiding the pitfalls of life.

And by ourselves we are certainly not able to withstand the schemes the devil uses to destroy our relationship with The Lord and to keep us from being effective Christians.

This 6th request “***Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one***” is our commitment to holiness and it is also our declaration of our intent not to have any part of Satan’s kingdom.

Each petition is extremely important and unfortunately most of us neglect this 6th petition, “***lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one***”.

We are quick to ask God for our needs.

We are quick to ask God to forgive us.

But we need to pray for God to lead us in His righteous way and to help us from becoming a victim of Satan’s tactics to interfere with our relationship with The Lord and to discredit our Christian witness to the people around us.

In this petition we are asking God for the victory over sin and for us not to accept defeat.

We are asking to stay alert walking with our Lord every day all the day long.

In this petition, “***lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one***”, we are declaring that our total allegiance is to The Lord and that we want no part of Satan.

If we are truly honest with ourselves we all want our prayers to be effective.

We want God to intervene in our daily lives.

If we want to pray effectively then we need to apply the principles Jesus gave us.

If we as individuals and we as the church are going to be successful on our spiritual journey we need to apply the principles of prayer that Jesus taught us in every one of our prayers.

First and foremost for our prayers to be effective we must have a close personal relationship with The Lord.

The next key to praying effectively is dependent on the attitude in our heart; an attitude of respect, and submission to the authority of God.

The last key to having effective prayers is to surrender all aspects of your life to The Lord.

We all need to quit trying to convince God to do our will and for us to honestly desire to do God's will.

You see it is only when we have surrendered ourselves to God, that we are ready to effectively ask God to meet our needs.

If you have never surrendered your life to Christ, now is the time to do that.

Come up to me after the benediction and tell me I want Jesus to save me from hell and I want Jesus to be The Lord of my life.

Please do not delay; tomorrow may be too late because The Lord may call you home today.

AMEN.