

Just Checking In
JCI #188 September 2017
The Lord's Model Prayer
Three Yours, Three Ours, Three Yours

The Lord's Model Prayer **Matthew 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 (**Yours** is) the power

and (**Yours** is) the glory forever.

Amen.

In His wonderful encouraging, convicting, instructing, rebuking, correcting, and directing Sermon on the Mount, Jesus had several things to teach us about prayer. In Matthew 5:5-6 He warned us about hypocritical prayers that are uttered for the ears of men rather than the heart of God.... For the glory of self rather than the glory of God... as a performance rather than a petition. In 5:7 He warned us about empty repetitions that seek to manipulate God rather than glorify Him... trying to find "magic words that work" and get us what we want, rather than humble requests that seek God's will and purposes to be accomplished. Later, in 7:7-11 He tells us to persevere in prayer, not to give up, and to trust in the caring heart of our God who will give us what we need when we need it.

To correct the errors of the hypocrite (performing) and the pagan (manipulating), Jesus provides us a prayer model, a guide if you will, to show us the focus, the purpose, the needs, and the end goal of prayer.

The Focus of Prayer: Our Father in Heaven

"Our Father"... a deep, personal, caring, trusting relationship that assures us of our God's presence, concern, knowledge, compassion, and commitment to us. We are not addressing a distant monarch through layers of bureaucracy with little chance of ever being recognized. No! We

are coming directly into the gaze of our Father who knows what we need before we open our mouths! (6:8) He is the focus of our prayers! Oh, the joy of just being with “Our Father” and knowing He knows, He cares, and He will respond.

“in heaven”... The reminder that our Father is in heaven is not to emphasize distance, but rather sovereignty. He is on the throne of heaven and rules over all. He has all power and authority, and nothing can withstand Him or keep Him from fulfilling His purposes in answering us. Deut 4:39 "Therefore know this day, and consider it in your heart, that the LORD Himself is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other.

Joshua 2:11 "And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.

2Chron 20:6 "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?

The Purpose of Prayer: The First Three “Yours”

Your Name is Holy (Hallowed, Holy, Utterly Set Apart is Your Name)

Acclaiming the holiness of God’s name at the outset of prayer reminds us of God’s perfect nature. Because He is holy, we know His answers will accord with His nature. We must not bring unholy, selfish, sinful requests before our Holy God. We are reminded of the greatness of His holiness, the greatness of our sin, and the greatness of His grace that invites us to come into His holy presence with our requests. Oh, the quietness this brings to our noisy souls. Father... in heaven... holy! Let us not doubt His compassion – Father. Let us not doubt His ability to answer – Heaven. Let us tremble in awe before Him – Holy.

Your Kingdom Come

The whole purpose of creation is for God to be glorified in it. The coming of His kingdom will put an end to sin, rebellion, corruption, deception, disease, and death. Let this be the motivation and deepest desire of our souls as we look to Him in prayer. Not my kingdom, not my nation’s kingdom, not any kingdom of man... O Holy Father in Heaven, let Your kingdom come and bring the fullness of Your glory before a worshipping creation.

Your Will Be Done On Earth as it is In Heaven

Since God is holy, and His glory is the purpose of all that is, then seeking His will, not ours, is only right. We cannot trust our wills. We may be rightly motivated in our prayers, yet we do not see the depths of our own selfish, sinful natures. Even Paul reminded us “when we want to do good, evil is still present with us. “ Romans 7:21 But I can rest assured that as I seek God’s will to be done, I will have what I most deeply desire, even if it is not what I presently think would be best. Praying for God’s will to be done will safeguard us from the constant temptation of superimposing our desires over God’s ultimate purposes. Some think such praying is a lack of faith. It is not. It is a full commitment to seeking God’s glory over all human desires. And when God’s will is finally and fully accomplished, what joy, what delight, what pleasure shall be ours in His presence.

Our Needs for Prayer: The Three Us'

Give Us Today Our Daily Bread...

Physical needs are often those that drive us to prayer. Most prayer lists are dominated by “daily bread” requests... job needs, health needs, financial needs... illnesses, job loss, aging... Jesus reminds us that we can and should ask God for our present physical needs. But we also notice several things about this simple request – it isn’t long, detailed, and fretting in expression. It is simple – “give us”. It is immediate – “today”. It is Present – “daily bread” or “bread for today.” We know the Father is always present, and will be here when we have need tomorrow. The prayer need is for today. Today we ask for today. We expect to be back in His presence to ask tomorrows needs when tomorrow comes.

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us...

We do not ignore our need for forgiveness. We know we are sinners still, even though we are children of God thru faith in Jesus Christ. We need daily forgiveness. However, we also need to daily forgive others. Don’t you love to be forgiven? Don’t you struggle to forgive? Yet we cannot have the first if we will not give the second. We see that forgiving others is the only part of the prayer that Jesus addresses in the addendum after the amen... 6:14-15... “For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” I cannot be right with God and wrong with others. If my heart holds on to bitterness and refuses to forgive, I will not be forgiven... since my soul remains unrepentant regarding my sin of bitterness. I need daily forgiveness as much, if not more, than I need daily bread, and only my heavenly, holy Father can provide them.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one...

Deliverance. We need to be delivered from the evil one – Satan – and all the deceptive traps he places in our pathways. This is a clear recognition of the battle we face every day with temptation. Temptations of the mind and heart, as well as the flesh. Self-glory, self-promotion, self-seeking, self-justifying, self-satisfying, self-focused temptations from within... plus all the bait that Satan throws at us from without. We live in a depraved world that scoffs at holiness, promotes wickedness, acclaims perversion, excuses evil, exalts self, and rejects God. Therefore, we must equip ourselves to do battle in the inner man against the forces of sin within and without. We need to be delivered, and we will be as we seek the Father’s holiness, kingdom, and glory in dependent, humble prayer.

The End Goal of Prayer - The Three Yours Repeated

As we began, so we conclude the prayer... the three “Yours” that began are repeated in the finale

Yours is the Kingdom	<i>Your Kingdom Come</i>
Yours is the Power	<i>Your Will be Done</i>
Yours is the Glory forever.... Amen!	<i>Your Name is Holy</i>

As the first three “Yours” (Your name, Your kingdom, Your will) led us into the proper purpose for prayer, so the last three “Yours” focus on the end goal... right back where we started.... For prayer is a constant cycle of glory...needs...glory...needs...glory...needs...glory...

As we pray today, so we will pray again tomorrow, until at last all needs are met on that day, and all that remains is glory!!!

May our hearts take this marvelous model and learn more and more what it means to pray in the Spirit, through the Son, to the Father, for their glory!

Self Check

- 1) Which part of the Lord's model prayer most convicts you? encourages you? helps you?
- 2) What one thing can you do as you pray today to better implement one of the things you learned?
- 3) How has God answered this model prayer for you in not answering a request you made the way you hoped He would?

For Further Study

How do Jesus' prayers in John 12:20-28, John 17, and Matthew 26:36-46 demonstrate how He prayed for the same purpose and goals He told us to pray for?

***Remember, you are very special to us and we pray for you.
Living with leaving in view.... John 9:4 Ron & Val***

Seeing the Invisible,
Embracing The Unapproachable,
Declaring the Unexplainable,
Changed by the Immutable,
Running after the Irresistible
With inexhaustible joy
In our inexpressible sorrows,
Spending our time on eternity,
Owning nothing yet possessing everything
That matters and lasts.
We are Pilgrims in Paradox.
Welcome to THE JOURNEY

The Lord's Model Prayer

Matthew 6:

The Relationship Defines the Prayer

Our Father in Heaven

Three "Your's

Three "Ours"

Three "Yours"

Eternity is the Final Answer