

The Lord's Prayer

We can delight in Our Father's presence!

II. "who art in heaven..."

Symbolic of authority, not distance

"...and that every tongue should acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the father." Phil 2:6

When we pray "*Our Father who art in heaven*" we are professing that we are the People of God, already "*seated with Him in heavenly places in Christ Jesus,*" even while we are here on earth.

The covenant relationship that God has with us allows us to return to the Father - as the Prodigal Son - as if we had never sinned. He, our Father in heaven, receives us with open arms, as his children.

III. "...hallowed be Thy name."

This is a call to praise Him!

*The praise of God is the result of a new heart and a new spirit.

*Praise is the highest form of prayer. It ascribes worth to the Lord for who he is.

Jesus makes this our first priority on prayer!

We practice this in the prayer group as we sing in praise and worship, and as we pray the litany of praise to Jesus in our booklets. May we make this an attitude of our hearts at all times!

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IV. "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done..."

Here we are praying for the rule and reign of the Lord Jesus in every area of our lives, the church, our particular areas of intercession, the world...

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," He said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"
Mark 1:14-15

The language of repentance is used..."Change"

Change is hard, but necessary. We turn away from the old way to the new.

- this is why so many churches have altar calls - it is a visible symbol of change

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of Him." 1John 5:14-15

We pray for change in:

- 1.) our personal lives
- 2.) our families
- 3.) our Church
- 4.) our nation/world

What we pray for is the plan, will, purposes of God in the above situations. As much as we know the plan, will, etc...we pray for that in those situations.

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This attitude of prayer moves us to action! It makes us ready to be a vessel to be used by God!

V. "Give us this day our daily bread..."

"...this day..."

Jesus wants us to ask with boldness, confidence, certainty - as a son/daughter asking with confidence of their father.

"Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him?"

(Or "give the Holy Spirit...?" The Kingdom!)

We ask with a sense of urgency... "Today!"

- based on confidence, not brattiness

"Cast the whole of your care [all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares for you affectionately and cares about watchfully." 1Peter 5:7 Amplified Bible

"...our daily bread..."

All of my needs.

Bread - refers to:

- 1.) all basic needs (health, finances, etc...)
- 2.) the Eucharist
- 3.) Revelation ("unveiling") of God's Word
- what He is saying to us today

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Summary thus far:

We are commended by the Lord to ask with boldness and trust in the Father's care and affection for us.

Remember:

We are His children.

We are to come before Him with praise and thanksgiving, and delight!

We are to ask of our heavenly Father with confidence, boldness, and humility.

Be patient, diligent, and listen. He will need to make adjustments with us as needed!

3-28-12
Part II

We are commended by the Lord to come to Him and ask of him, with boldness, and trust in our Father's care and affection for us.

Remember:

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We are to come to him with praise and thanksgiving, and delight!

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VI. "Forgive us...as we have been forgiven..."

The basis of our forgiveness is the cross.

To forgive - means "to throw away or toss aside"

Our sins are a drop of water in the ocean. Can we find the drop after it is put there?

We are washed clean!

"Do not fear my sin...in the cross, it is forgiven."

Forgiveness is making things new, or beginning again.

Change!

Pray, "Lord, show me my sins."

- *daily* keep a short account with the Lord

- ask him to show us where we are not in His will

How do we *receive* forgiveness?

1.) Repent of our sin. *Ask* for forgiveness.

2.) Accept the forgiveness *of the cross*.

(not by trying to "be better" or "make up for what I did")

3.) Give thanks!

"Thank you, Father! I accept Your forgiveness from the cross!"

Our forgiveness of each other flows from the cross.

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

The compassion shown to us through the cross is what we show to each other. "To err is human, but to forgive is divine."

How do we forgive *others*?

1.) Remember what the Lord did for you.

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- 2.) Acknowledge the hurt. Forgive that person by "releasing" them from what they owe you.
- 3.) Ask the Lord to bless them in every way possible.
- 4.) Thank the Lord for what he is doing.

Reminders that come of what is past and forgiven - guilt, shame - this is from the enemy, not the Lord!

We need to be aware of spiritual warfare.

VII. "Lead us not into temptation...deliver us..."

We have victory, but the battle goes on. We need to wake up to the battle.

"In conclusion, be strong in the Lord [be empowered through your union with Him]; draw your strength from Him [that strength which His boundless might provides].

"Put on God's whole armor [the armor of a heavy-armed soldier which God supplies], that you may be able to stand up against [all] the strategies and deceits of the devil.

"For we are not wrestling with flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the despotisms, against the powers, against [the master spirits who are] the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly [supernatural] sphere." Eph 6:10-12

Paul's language is that of the House of Combat sports

- common to the time
- daily bouts (boxing, wrestling)

These bouts had no rules. There was breaking of fingers, spines, etc. Anything goes. Win, or die.

The words used by Paul to describe the enemy:

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- 1.) "rulers" - disciplined, organized, committed to destroy us
- 2.) "wickedness" - bad, vile, vicious We cannot negotiate or make friends with the devil. He is all about power.
- 3.) "against" (used 4 times by Paul) - Face to face combat
- intimate, in *your* life

Temptation begins in our hearts. So guard your heart.

"Keep and guard your heart with all vigilance and above all that you guard, for out of it flows the springs of life." Prov 4:23

- Examine, discern your heart, your conscience

Rebuke the temptation - "muzzle it" Tell it to go!

Ask the Father to make us strong, loving, wise, and sober-minded.

- to live a crucified, sanctified life on a daily basis is crucial to neutralize any attacks on us or our families

We are asking for deliverance and discernment regarding any of the enemies plans and tactics.

-we ask to know the devil's plan so we can thwart it

Walk in the armor of the Lord: (Eph 6:13-18)

- 1.) The Belt of Truth - Knowledge of God: the Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit
- 2.) The Breastplate of Righteousness - It covers my heart
- 3.) Sandals of Peace - Confidence before our Father:
- Joy comes from this place
- 4.) The Shield of Faith - Expectant!
- 5.) The Helmet of Salvation - Growing in confidence in the Lord's perfect love and commitment to *my* salvation
- 6.) The Sword of the Spirit (The Word of God) - Knowing God's promises to counter the lies of the enemy

Through the Lord's prayer, cultivate the discipline of living in the realm of union with the Lord.