

Jesus' Teaching on Prayer Series: 2

The Prayer Model - Worship

Matthew 6. 5-13

Because of Jesus' teaching that we studied last time, I don't believe that this prayer was intended to be used as a public prayer or to be prayed repetitiously word for word, but rather that it was given to us as a pattern or as guidelines to help us pray.

Jesus says, as He introduces this prayer, that we should pray '*in this manner*'. The Greek word *houtos*, used here means 'in this way'. This is a way to pray not a prayer to pray, what Jesus went on to teach are guidelines or principles to direct us as we pray. So let us look at these principles:

It is broken down into three main areas

- Worship
- Petition
- Praise

A. Worship and Honour vs9-10

(a) Our Father in Heaven

These first words tell us much more than to whom we should address our prayer and petition. Knowing that God is our Father fills us with total confidence as we pray.

1. When we are born again we are adopted into God's family and God becomes our spiritual Father. Paul wrote in Galatians 4.6 "**And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"**" The word Abba is in the Scripture but is not normally given any English translation – at the time of Jesus this was what toddlers called their fathers. The nearest word in English we have is Daddy. One of the first things Jesus taught was that we can call God, Abba, our Father, because we have an intimate relationship with Him.

2. Out of that relationship comes confidence and assurance that God will respond to the requests and petitions we bring.

- i. we know that our Father is **love**. God is love, He loves us with an unconditional love. Most people have a very distorted image of love – they only love as long as it is reciprocated, or what they call love isn't actually love but lust. Those who are perpetrators, or even victims, of this distorted image can have a low opinion of God as Father, because they don't know love. All of God's dealings with His children are motivated by love
- ii. Later in this chapter of Matthew, Jesus teaches that God is a **caring** Father. He cares for the birds of the air and he cares for us much more (Matthew 6.26). When we approach God in prayer, as Peter writes, we can "**cast all our care on Him for He cares for us**" (1 Peter 5.7).

3. *in Heaven*. These two simple words tell us more about God which we would do well to remember as we approach Him in prayer. These two words are used together over 100 times in the Bible and express:

- i. His majesty and dominion –
He rules over the nations and over His creation. [2 Chronicles 20.6a](#);
- ii. His omnipotence –
His power and might, He is the all powerful God, doing great and mighty things. [2 Chronicles 20.6b](#); [Psalm 115.3](#); [Isaiah 12.6](#)
- iii. His omniscience –
All knowing. God's throne is in heaven and He knows all things including the things we need before we even ask Him. [Psalm 11.4](#); [Psalm 33.13-5](#); [Matthew 6.8](#)
- iv. His omnipresence –
The heaven of heavens cannot contain Him. His home is in our hearts. [1 Kings 8.27](#); [John 14.23](#)
- v. His purity and holiness –
His habitation is described as a holy habitation. He is holy and inhabits the praises of His people. [Deuteronomy 26.15](#); [Isaiah 57.15](#); [Psalm 22.3](#)

(b) Hallowed be Your Name

When we pray, we bring our prayers and petitions to the Father in the name of Jesus. Jesus Himself said

[“And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”](#) John 14.13-14

In Bible times a person's name indicated their nature, who they were, and their integrity. God has highly exalted the name of Jesus, He has given Jesus the name which is above every name, His own name ([Philippians 2.9-10](#)) – at His name every thing that is named must bow. There is great power in His name – Jesus said that whatever we ask in His name, it will be done.

God exalted (raise up to the highest position) the name of Jesus, and we should too. This is the meaning of the word **hallowed**, literally it means **to make holy or to honour**. [“Our Father in heaven, help us to honour your name.”](#) Matthew 6.9 (CEV)

How can we honour or hallow the name of Jesus? By acknowledging who God/Jesus is...

[“Give to the LORD the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and come before Him. Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness!”](#) 1 Chronicles 16.29

The Bible uses many names to express the nature and character of God. Part of our prayer and worship to God is give the Lord the glory that is due His name.. to worship the holiness of His name.

- **Shalom** - peace, rest, contentment
- **Tsidkenu** – righteousness, perfection
- **Makaddesh** – sanctifier and purifier
- **Rophe** - healer
- **Jireh** – who sees and provides
- **Nissi** – banner, security, captain
- **Roi** – shepherd, companion and friend

and there are many many more....

(c) Your Kingdom Come

“Thy Reign begin” (J. Moffatt)

A kingdom is the domain of a king, the area of his rule and reign. When we pray we submit ourselves to His rule and reign for our lives, to the Lordship of Jesus.

He is Lord – He has the pre-eminence in our lives.

“and *that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father*” Philipians 2.11

1. The Kingdom of God is within Believers

“Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, “The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, ‘See here!’ or ‘See there!’ For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.” Luke 17.20-21

- i. It is the way that God works. Jesus likened the kingdom of God to a seed – Mark 4.26, 30.
- ii. He works through us so that He gets the glory. 1 Corinthians 1.27-29
- iii. We cannot confess the Lordship of Jesus except by the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12.3

2. The Kingdom of God has priority over everything else

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” Matthew 6.33

This is an important point to note, especially as most of our prayers are asking for the things we need. Jesus said that these will be given to us but our first priority is to seek after His kingdom, His rule, and His will for our our lives.

When we submit ourselves to the Lordship of Christ, everything falls into it's rightful place – our families, the things we need, jobs etc

(d) Your Will Be Done On Earth As it is In Heaven

1. God expects us to find out what His will is. How can we do this? - by studying the Scriptures – they are His will. God's will is revealed through His word. “finding out what is acceptable to the Lord... Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” Ephesians 5.10,17
“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,” 2 Timothy 3.16
2. God's will must take priority over our own will. It is too easy to pray for the will of God to be done somewhere else. We should submit to His will above our own will.
 - i. Isaiah sought God's will and submitted to it – send me!
“Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: “Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.”” Isaiah 6.8

- ii. Jesus submitted to His Father's will.
“nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.... Your will be done.” Matthew 26.39-42
 - iii. When we submit ourselves to the Lordship of Jesus, submitting to His will follows easily and naturally.
3. We submit to His will by believing the Word of God and allowing it to renew our thinking.
“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” Romans 12.2
4. Jesus' one desire was to please His Father and do His will. He is our example.
“My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.” John 4.34
5. God's will is always done in Heaven. It would be foolish and blasphemous to say that the will of God isn't accomplished there. God's will abides forever – God's word is His will.
“And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.” 1 John 2.7
“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away”
Matthew 24.35; Mark 13.31; Luke 21.33
“Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.” James 1.18
- i. We should pray in line with the word of God, to see God's will done on earth.
 - ii. It goes back to our first point – it's about relationship with our Father.
 - iii. Like Jesus we should desire to do the will of God here on earth.