

Jesus Is the One Who Shows Us How to Pray

Luke 11:1-4

On two occasions Jesus verbally taught us how to pray, here and in Matthew 6:9-13. Luke isn't repeating what Matthew said, for these two texts reflect two distinct events. In Matthew 6, what we know as The Lord's Prayers is part of the Sermon on the Mount *in Galilee*. In this text Jesus is with His disciples in Judea and responds to a request by one of His disciples teach them to pray as John taught His disciples. This is not a prayer to be memorized to be recited as an incantation of magic. Rather, it is a prayer given by Christ as a model to be remembered to illustrate when, how and what to pray for during your life. It is short, simple, and sincere. God isn't as interested in the dressing on top of our prayers as He is the depth below.

I. We only start praying by remembering *who God is*.

- **Father**

We call the eternal, transcendent, omnipotent God, Father, and come before Him as His children. "Let us come boldly to His throne ... to obtain mercy and grace to help in time of need" (Heb. 4:16).

- **Hallowed be *Your* name**

The name of God represents His Being, all that He is! When we say, "Hallowed be Your name," we are praying, like the Lord Jesus did, "Father, glorify Your name" (John 12:28). My life isn't about me, it isn't about my name, it isn't about my glory. It's about the glory and praise of my Father. "Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant." (Psalm 35:27).

- ***Your* Kingdom come**

We seek that in all things God will establish and enlarge His reign in this world. (Psalm 122:6-7).
NOTE: The KJV adds "Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth." Later copyist manuscripts of the New Testament seem to make this prayer similar to the one in Matthew 6. The NAS and other Modern translations take the older manuscript approach and use only "Your Kingdom come."
There's no way that a Kingdom will come unless the will of the King is always done.

II. We stay praying by remembering *what only God does*.

- **Give us each day our daily bread**

We are never called to prayer for future bread, nor are we to doubt that God is faithful each day. God alone has the means through which He can insure our daily bread, and nobody else can do so.

- **Forgive us our sins**

To forgive is "to not hold against." Sin is any shortcoming or transgression of the Law of God. Only God can forgive sins. This is one of the reasons Jesus healed the blind, made the lame walk, and raised the dead; it was verification that He alone can forgive sins (see the story in Mark 2:10-11). This phrase alone has explanation: ***For we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us.*** The chief evidence that God has forgiven you of your sins is that you quickly forgive others theirs.

- **And deliver us from evil**

J. C. Ryle wrote, "We include under the word evil, everything that can hurt us, either in body or soul, and especially every weapon of that great author of evil, the devil. We confess that ever since the fall, the world 'lieth in the wicked one' (1 John v. 19.) We confess that evil is in us, and about us, and near us, and on every side, and that we have no power to deliver ourselves from it. We apply to the Strong for strength. We cast ourselves on Him for protection" (John 17:15).