

Day 2 - The Lord's Prayer

Reflecting on last year, God has been sanctifying my heart through the Lord's prayer. I had not been comfortable with prayer in my adult life. When I thought about praying, I was rarely confident in what to say.

I know many of you are prayer warriors. I love that! It is so pleasing to God when his children find a quiet place, cozy up with a hot cup of coffee (caffeine is not mandatory, but a gift from God), and close the door to reflect and meditate on his glory (Matt. 6:6). He wants us to ask him to help us and for us to rely on his strength (Ps. 34:17).

Read Matthew 6:5-18 (ESV) out loud.

Next, we'll go through the Lord's prayer, line by line, and let the authoritative words of Jesus speak life into us and into our church body.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,

- Pause and reflect.
- His is our Father, our Abba, and our Creator. He knit me together in my mother's womb (Ps. 139:13). He created vessels of mercy for his glory (Rom. 9:23). We are brothers and sisters and his children. Although God is invisible residing in heaven, he leaves his Spirit to reside in our hearts.

hallowed be your name.

- Pause and reflect.
- His name is holy. He is set apart. He is without sin. Sinners cannot stand in his presence. They cannot look upon his face. We esteem him, we fear him, and we respect him. He is great and powerful and mighty! Yet, we can approach him, because when he looks on us, he sees Jesus.

your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

- Pause and reflect.
- Bring us back to the garden. Let us walk with God as Adam did. We want to see his commandments obeyed. We want the people to respect and fear the Lord. Lord show us your kingdom more fully. Our thoughts are not your thoughts. Let us know your will. Let us walk in your ways. Let us love one another. Let us be gracious to one another. Let us be gentle with each other. Let us praise you!

Give us this day our daily bread,

- Pause and reflect.
- Give me only my daily manna. Give me neither poverty nor riches so that I rely on your strength alone (Prov 30:8-9). Let me trust in your provision. Let me trust that you are good and give good gifts to your children when they ask (Matt 7:11).

and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

- Pause and reflect.
- God forgave our debt and made us righteous, while we were still sinners (Rom. 5:8). Jesus, who is fully man and fully God, sacrificed himself on the cross and was raised to life in three days and now sits at the right hand of God. He is coming back for us. He will bring us heavenly bodies that are not perishable.
- Have we forgiven our debtors? Who in my life has sinned against me? Am I harboring resentment, bitterness, hate...? Am I withholding forgiveness in my heart? Lord convict me and give me courage to confront and pursue reconciliation—no matter how small. Lord give me strength. Give me long suffering. Lord bring freedom.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

- Pause and reflect
- Lord we are weak. We know temptations will come. You are our shield and our deliverer. Show us the way out. Let us flee evil like Joseph running from Potiphar's wife. Let us remember Jesus was tempted and did not sin. We too can use your word as a weapon when we're tempted. Your Spirit allows us to resist the devil and flee temptation.

Who in your life has a heart of stone? Pray for them. Pray for your family by name (Ezek. 36:26, Heb. 8:10). Pray for our church—for those who are sick, for those who are mourning. When one member hurts and mourns, we all hurt and mourn. Pray for the new year, that God prepares our new pastor's heart, that he prepares our hearts for when the pastor comes and that we love one another. Pray for unity of the body, that we embrace community and fellowship with one another, that we disciple one another, that we reach the lost, and that we obey his commands.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotes are taken from the ESV: Study Bible : English Standard Version, Crossway Bible, 2012 online