

The Lord's Prayer | Matthew 6:9-15

Pray then like this: "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 also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

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."

Six Petitions in the Lord's Prayer

- Two categories in the Lord's Prayer: God's glory and our personal need

1. God's glory

2. God's kingdom

- a. "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." (Romans 14:17)

3. God's will

- a. "...we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord..." (Colossians 1:9-10)
- b. "At the center of self-will is me, carving a world in my image. At the center of prayer is God, carving me in his Son's image." (Paul Miller)
- c. "The great struggle of my life is not trying to discern God's will; it is trying to discern and then disown my own." (Paul Miller)

4. Our provision

- a. Two things I ask of you; deny them not to me before I die: Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, lest I be full and deny you and say, "Who is the LORD?" or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God." (Proverbs 30:7-9)
- b. "We shy away from prayers that invite God to rule our lives. They make us vulnerable." (Paul Miller)

5. Our sin

a. What God has done

- i. "...by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross." (Colossians 2:14)

b. Forgiveness

- i. "Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him." (Luke 17:3-4)
- ii. What forgiveness is NOT
 1. Ignoring or denying sin
 2. Enabling sin
 3. Waiting for an apology/repentance
 - a. "An unwillingness to repent on the part of the perpetrator is no excuse for ongoing bitterness, something that the Bible says will inevitably poison the soul." (Tim Keller)
 - i. "See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no 'root of bitterness' springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled..." (Hebrews 12:15)
 - a. "The humility that comes from admitting your lostness and the joy that comes from knowing your acceptance in Christ are simply absent." (Tim Keller)
 4. Trust
 5. Reconciliation
- iii. What forgiveness IS
 1. Trusting God's justice over yours
 2. Forgiving as forgiven people
 3. Grace
 4. A God-centered decision to be released with bitterness & resentment
 5. A witness to a watching world

6. Our weakness

- a. "Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it." (1 Corinthians 10:12-13)

Benediction | Romans 12:18-19

If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."