

The Lord's Prayer

May 23, 2021

Matthew 6:1-18

Why pray?

Verse 8 tells us God already knows what we need (and what we will pray) even before we do so. So why pray?

- Follow Jesus' **example**.
- Jesus tells us to.
- It gets our mind and heart in **line** with God's (It gets us on God's agenda).
- It allows God to work on our mind, attitude, heart, demeanor etc.
- Open dialogue with Jesus.

Remember, prayer is simply communion (communication) with God.

Prayer is not:

- Genie in a bottle.
- A "quick fix".
- Telling God what He needs to do.
- About me.
- Getting God on our agenda.

"The immediate purpose of prayer is the accomplishing of God's will on earth; the ultimate purpose of prayer is the eternal glory of God" (from *On Earth as It Is in Heaven: How the Lord's Prayer Teaches Us to Pray More Effectively*, Baker Books, 2010, p. 78).

Where should we pray?

Prayer closet. (Matthew 5:6)

Set aside a specific time and place each day to spend on focused prayer. This is time focused, intentional and concerted prayer.

Make time to pray! *"I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer."*
~Martin Luther

I need time with God. I need to be saved from myself.

In prayer time we:

- Trust Him with our heart.
- Receive encouragement.
- Are reminded He is in control.
- Have our outlook changed.
- Tune ourselves with Him.
- Do battle with the enemy. *"Confine your conflicts to your quiet time."* ~ Tom Elliff

What/How should we pray?

⁹ In this manner, therefore, pray: *Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. ¹⁰ Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. ¹³ And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. [^u]For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.* **Matthew 6:9-13**

- Honor and glorify God's name (hallowed be your name).
- Provisions (our daily bread).
- To forgive others, since we have been forgiven.
- Keep us from falling into temptation (deliver us from the evil one).
- For ourselves, family, friends.
- Most importantly – Your will be done.

Create a prayer list:

A

C

T

S

When should we pray?

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. **Philippians 4:6-7**

Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed. **Mark 1:35**

*So He Himself **often** withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.* **Luke 5:16**

When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples over the Brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered. ² And Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with His disciples. **John 18:1-2**

I/we must regularly spend time with Jesus. If intentional prayer is just an option, then so will be:

Victory over sin.

Loving your enemies.

Being the parent God intends.

Effectively leading your family.

Leaving a Godly legacy.

Being who God wants you to be.

Praise God, prayer changes me!