

## MATTHEW 6:9-13 – THE MODEL PRAYER

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### Biblical Background: -

- In Chapter Five, Jesus begins His teaching of the “Sermon on the Mount”. His teaching includes: The Beatitudes; Believers are Salt and Light; Christ Fulfills the Law; Murder Begins in the Heart; Adultery in the Heart; Marriage is Sacred and Binding; Jesus Forbids Oaths; Go the Second Mile; Love Your Enemies;
- In chapter Six, He begins by teaching to: Do Good to Please God.
- Then in verse 5, He begins teaching us about prayer. He gives us the Model Prayer!
- Now in Our Praying (Mat 6:5-15) Jesus gave four instructions to guide us in our praying.
  - We must pray in secret before we pray in public (Mat 6:6).
  - We must pray sincerely (Mat 6:7-8).
  - We must pray in and according to God’s will (Mat 6:9-13).
  - We must pray, having a forgiving spirit toward others (Mat 6:14-15).

### The Model Prayer for us from our Lord Jesus Christ: (NKJV)

#### v. 9a *In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven:*

##### The Prayer begins with a good and proper address

- The right kind of prayer comes to God as a Father in heaven. It rightly recognizes whom we pray to, coming with a privileged title that demonstrates a privileged relationship. It was very unusual for the Jews of that day to call God "Father" because it was considered too intimate.
  - It is true that God is the mighty sovereign of the universe who created, governs, and will judge all things - but He is also to us a Father.
  - He is our Father, but He is **our** Father in heaven. When we say "in heaven," we remember God's holiness and glory. He is our Father, but our Father in heaven.
  - This is a prayer focused on “us” not just me! Jesus said "Our Father" and not "My Father."

#### Vs. 9b-10 *Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven:*

##### The first two petitions are directed not at self, but to our Father!

- The right kind of prayer has a passion for God's glory and agenda. His name, kingdom and will have the top priority.
  - Let **Your name be holy!** Everyone wants to guard their own name and reputation, but we must resist the tendency to protect and promote ourselves first and instead put God's name, kingdom and will, first.
  - Let **Your Kingdom be established on earth! May You reign!** Jesus wanted us to pray with the desire that the will of God would be done on earth as it is in heaven. In heaven there **is no disobedience and no obstacles to God's will**; on earth **there is disobedience and at least apparent obstacles** to His will. The citizens of Jesus' kingdom will want to see His will done as freely on earth as it is in heaven.
  - A man can say, "Your will be done" in different ways and moods. He may say it with fatalism and resentment, "You will do your will, and there is nothing I can do about it anyway. Your will wins, but I don't like it" or he may say it with a heart of perfect love and trust, "Do Your will, because I know it is the best. Change me where I don't understand or accept Your will."
  - One might rightly wonder why God wants us to pray that His will would be done, as if He were not able to accomplish it Himself. God is more than able to do His will without our prayer or cooperation; **yet He invites the participation of our prayers, our heart, and our actions in seeing His will be done** on earth as it is in heaven.

#### Vs. 11-13a *Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one:*

##### Now we have three personal petitions regarding our needs, our forgiveness and our deliverance from sin and the Devil.

- The right kind of prayer will freely bring its own needs to God. This will include needs for **daily provision, forgiveness, and strength in the face of temptation.**

- **Just as Israel had to depend on each and every day for their manna, so do we!** When Jesus spoke of bread, He meant real bread, as in the sense of daily provisions. Early theologians allegorized this, because they couldn't imagine Jesus speaking about an everyday thing like bread in such a majestic prayer like this. So they thought bread referred to communion, the Lord's Supper. Some have thought it referred to Jesus Himself as the bread of life. Others have thought it speaks of the Word of God as our daily bread. Calvin rightly said of such interpretations which fail to see God's interest in everyday things, "This is exceedingly absurd." God does care about everyday things, and we should pray about them.
- "The **prayer is for our needs, not for our wants!**
- "**Sin is represented here under the notion of a debt**, and as our sins are many, they are called here debts. God made man that he might live to His glory, and gave him a law to walk by; and if, when he does any thing that tends not to glorify God, he contracts a debt with Divine Justice." (Adam Clarke)
- **Do not "leave" us in temptation!** Temptation literally means a test, not always a solicitation to do evil. God has promised to keep us from any testing that is greater than what we can handle (*1 Cor. 10:13*).
- "God, while he does not 'tempt' men to do evil (*James 1:13*), does allow His children to pass through periods of testing. But disciples, aware of their weakness, should not desire such testing, and should pray to be spared exposure to such situations in which they are vulnerable." (France)
- If we truly pray, lead us not into temptation, it will be lived out in several ways. It will mean:
  - ✓ **Never boast in your own strength.**
  - ✓ **Never desire trials.**
  - ✓ **Never go into temptation.**
  - ✓ **Never lead others into temptation.**

**v. 13b For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen:**

**We see the summary to this prayer is all about our Father!**

- The right kind of prayer praises God and credits to Him the kingdom and the power and the glory.
  - There is some dispute as to whether this doxology is in the original manuscript Matthew wrote or was added in later by a scribe. Most modern Biblical scholars believe this line was a later addition.
  - "It is variously written in several MSS., and omitted by most of the fathers, both Greek and Latin. As the doxology is at least very ancient, and was in use among the Jews, as well as all the other petitions of this excellent prayer, **it should not, in my opinion, be left out of the text**, merely because some MSS. have omitted it, and it has been variously written in others." (Adam Clarke)

**SUMMARY:**

- **The Prayer begins with a good and proper address to "Our Father"!**
- **The first two petitions are directed not at self, but to our Father!**
- **Then next, are three personal petitions regarding our needs, our forgiveness and our deliverance from sin and the Devil.**
- **We see that the summary to this prayer is all about our Father! "Yours is the Kingdom! Yours is the power! And Yours is the glory"!**

**"The Lord's Prayer:!"**

*Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.  
 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.  
 Give us this day our daily bread.  
 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:  
 For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.*

**SAT MORN PRAYER GUIDELINES:**

We all want to receive **instruction from the teaching in Biblical prayers and for the prayer time be effective**, being led by the **Holy Spirit**. To that end:

- Please be on time at 6:30am to receive the blessings of the weekly prayers in the Bible.
- If you are late, **simply agree in prayer and refrain from praying** in group prayer and **wait until the small group** prayer time.
- Those who pray aloud during the prayer meeting portion, **please keep the prayers short (2-3 minutes)** praying as led by the Holy Spirit. There is only about a 30 minute period for 15 or so to pray.
- **Intercessory prayer** (church, country, leaders) **during group time; personal** prayer during small group time.
- **Welcome times of silence** during the group prayer time as we wait on the **Holy Spirit**.