

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Hallowed Be Your Name



-- Review

-- Part 1 – “Lord, Teach Us to Pray”

- How we pray matters.
 - In response to the disciples asking how they should pray, we can learn much from what Jesus doesn't say.
 - He says nothing about the times, places, or postures of prayer.
 - However, notice that Jesus doesn't say, “Oh, it doesn't really matter how you pray.” He didn't give the kind of wishy-washy, relativistic answer that is everywhere in our culture.
 - Rather, He gives us this beautiful and timeless model for prayer.
- The Lord's Prayer is so important because it is God's perfect framework for prayer.
 - While it is fine to do so, the Lord's Prayer is not really meant to be prayed word-for-word.
 - This prayer, therefore, is a divinely-inspired template from which tremendous depths of prayer are meant to spring up and grow.
 - The Lord's Prayer tells the proper content for prayer.
 - It teaches us the proper attitudes for prayer.

-- Part 2 – “Our Father in Heaven” (v. 2a)

- **Main idea: Pray affectionately, like a child to His Father.**
- Prayer begins with the understanding that God is our source.
 - If you are in Christ, God is your Father.
 - Galatians 3:26-27 – “*You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.*”
 - Because God is our Father, we pray to Him affectionately.

- Romans 8:15-17 – “*For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, ‘Abba, Father.’*”
- All prayer begins with the knowledge that God cares.
 - If He doesn’t, then why pray at all?
 - Exodus 34:6-7 – “*The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin.*”
 - God created us, redeemed us through Christ, and forever calls us His children. He is our compassionate, gracious, patient, loving, faithful, caring, merciful Father who seeks only our good and knows no limits upon His constant care. Above all, God’s provision of Jesus Christ makes clear beyond all doubt that He loves us without limit.
- What a joy and privilege that we are called to pray to God intimately.
- However, this notion can quickly become abused.
 - Applauding our college students for their concern over “Getting drunk in the spirit.” (Explain)
 - Praying to God “intimately” in no way means praying to Him “irreverently.”

-- Big Idea: Pray reverently as a worshipper to his God.

1.) Effective prayer is an expression of reverence.

- Common advice about prayer: “Pray to God like you are talking to a friend.” I even heard the idea in a song the other day...
- Here is a way to see how goofy this concept is: Just look at the prayers in Scripture, and imagine talking to your friend like that.
 - Applying this idea to Psalms 71:22-24 – “I will praise you with the harp for your faithfulness, O (Pete); I will sing praise to you with the lyre, O (Pete of Carmi). My lips will shout for joy when I sing praise to (my good friend Pete)—I, whom you have redeemed. My tongue will tell of (Pete’s) righteous acts all day long.”
 - Yikes! That’s blasphemy! Of course we don’t pray to God like we’re talking to a friend. While there may be small ways in which that is helpful, it is mostly trivial and irreverent.

- While prayer begins with the understanding that God is our Father, it never forgets that our Father is holy.
 - These two attitudes balance each other out.
- It emphasizes that our communion with God is both a relationship and worship.
- v. 2 – “Hallowed be your name”
 - Hallowed – Greek – *agiasmos* – “To set apart as holy; to revere.”
 - To be set apart (holy) in Scripture means to treat with the utmost reverence.
 - 4th Commandment – Exodus 20:8 – “*Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.*”
 - The Sabbath being holy meant that it was not treated like every other day. It was given special reverence.
 - Leviticus 21:8 – (About the priests) – “*Regard them as holy, because they offer up the food of your God. Consider them holy, because I the LORD am holy—I who make you holy.*”
 - The priests weren't supposed to live like everyone else. They were set apart to serve God in a sacred way.
 - No one entered the Holy of Holies (“the Set Apart of Set Apart”) like it was just another room. It was a room set apart with utmost reverence.
 - In the same way, the phrase “Hallowed be your name,” means we should always seek to pray with utmost reverence toward God.
 - This is not a problem; it is a privilege!
 - Consider the nonsense that the world reveres: Sinful self, worthless wealth, fleeting fame—what a waste!
 - Consider the joy and the glory of living a life that sets apart the Lord Jesus Christ.

When we sing that God is holy, holy, holy, we are essentially singing that He is different, different, different. And he is! His very being is far better, His strength is far stronger, His knowledge is far superior, and His wisdom is beyond us. Praying “Hallowed be your name” understands that God is above everything earthly... He surpasses all that is profane... and He transcends everything temporal. He is a different kind of being, in a kind different place, with an infinitely greater kind of glory. It means acknowledging that He is the Creator

and we are the creature... that He is infinite; we are finite... that He is almighty; we are dependent... that He is without sin, while we are all sinners.

Thus, when Jesus tells us to pray “Hallowed be your name,” He is telling us that the way that we interact with God should be dramatically different from the way we interact with everyone else. He means that we speak to God with reverence... We come to Him with awe... We set apart our His glory and seek to do what He desires. He wants us to extol God’s name over and above everything else, without exceptions of any kind. It means we come to God understanding that effective prayer expresses reverence for God who is set apart as holy.

2.) Effective prayer is an expression of submission.

- We cannot set apart God as holy without setting apart His will as our priority.
- To do so would be an attempt to say something like: “Although God is absolutely supreme, my ideas are still better than His.

But God’s will is always greater than our wants... His purposes are greater than our preferences... His commands are greater than our comforts... His glory is greater than any other good, and it is the goal we have the privilege to pursue. Thus, prayer means submitting to God’s standards, not following our feelings. It means serving Him in submission, not seeking to be served. It means that we should never be so foolish as to rush to God demanding that He does what we want, or claiming that our thoughts are higher than His. “Hallowed be your name” requires a spirit of submission.

- Jesus illustrates this truth supremely when He is looking ahead to the cross.
 - John 12:27-28 – “*Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!’*” Then a voice came from heaven, “*I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.*”
 - Even in the face of the cross—even though Jesus knew He would bear the sin of the world and bear the full wrath of sin—it was still unthinkable for Him to pray in any way except to pray for the glory of His Father.

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 - Even in the face of the cross—even though Jesus knew He would bear the sin of the world and bear the full wrath of sin—it was still unthinkable for Him to pray in any way except to pray for the glory of His Father." -- Prayer is the process of God bringing glory to His name by communing with His people and caring for our needs.
- Effective prayer is, therefore, God-centered prayer.
 - In it Christ tells us to worship God as holy and to submit to His will as our priority, so that God will be glorified in our entirety.
 - Self is removed and God is revered.
 - Praying "Hallowed be your name" means praying for God's glory above all.

-- Conclusion

This is how Christ taught us to pray because this is precisely how Christ lived. Though He was God in the flesh, He glorified His Father in every word and deed by submitting to His will all the way to the cross. Even in the mouth of history's greatest suffering and betrayal, Jesus prayed, "*Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.*" (Luke 22:42)

The will of God may be difficult and it may not always make sense on this side of eternity. However as the cross makes abundantly clear, God's will comes with a guarantee of God's glory for all who believe. For Jesus rose, and He lives, and He is calling us to prayer for the glory of God and the growth of His Gospel.

So pray with reverence before God. Pray in submission to God's will. Pray with your sights set on solely on God's glory. And see how God makes His glory new in your life.