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Praying The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven! May Your Name be kept Holy. May your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us the food we need today. Forgive us what we have done wrong, as we too have forgiven those who have wronged us. And do not lead us into hard testing, but keep us safe from the Evil One. For kingship, power and glory are yours forever. Amen. MATT. 6:9-12 CJB

Jesus directed His disciples to pray specifically. He showed them what He meant by giving them a model for prayer shortly after He finished teaching them this; “*when you pray, go into your room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. Your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, don't babble on and on like the pagans, who think God will hear them better if they talk a lot. Don't be like them, because your Father knows what you need before you ask him.*” Matt 6:6-8 CJB

The Lord's Prayer contains some wonderful truths. I am always amazed at how God's Word is seamlessly connected. The Lord's Prayer is an excellent model, but it was never intended to be a religious incantation to get Gods attention. Jesus had just warned against using repetitious phrases. Instead, he gave it as a pattern that could be included when we pray.

The Lord's Prayer Is Like A Letter Sent From Earth>>>> To >>>>Heaven?

1. The person to whom it is directed is: *Our Father*.
2. The address is: *In heaven*.
3. The contents contains: *Requests and Expressions Of Obedience*.
4. The closing is: *For Thine is The Kingdom*.
5. The seal: *Amen*.
6. The date: *This Day*.

Jesus Gives Us An Example Of How To Pray Using Six Petitions

1. The first three petitions relate to God and his honor.
✠ *Our Father in heaven! May Your Name be kept Holy. May your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven.*

These first three summarize Commandments, 1-4 (vertical relationship / God)

2. The last three relate to our concerns, both temporal and spiritual
✠ *Give us the food we need today. Forgive us what we have done wrong, as we too have forgiven those who have wronged us. And do not lead us into hard testing, but keep us safe from the Evil One.*

The last three summarize Commandments 5-10 (horizontal relationships / neighbor).

Now consider this; within the above six petitions Jesus is teaches us to prayerfully seek to do the following; *“love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment (1-4). And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself (5-10). On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”* Matt 22:37-40

APPLICATION: *Spend some time reflecting on the way that you pray. Do you ask for strength and help to read and obey His Word? Do ask for increased revelation about Him and the Kingdom? Do you tend to be repetitive, or focus only on one aspect of prayer (such as requests for things you need or want)? Try using the six petitions within the Lord’s Prayer as your start point, then pray in tongues for a season, and then go to the next petition. If you are having prayer problems use this format until it becomes easy again. Ask God to show you the truth about your prayer life and how it might need to change.*

Blessings Pastor Bob Hill

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