

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Jesus lived a life of prayer (Luke 5:16; 6:12; Mk. 1:35). He gave us a beautiful model of prayer for us. He shows us how to relate to, connect and commune with the Father.

Luke 11:1 Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."

Matt. 6:9-13 In this manner, therefore, pray: 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 forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

- B. Prayer does not begin on earth, but begins in heaven: Our Father in heaven.
1. Turn your gaze to heaven... Don't start with earth. Rather, lift your gaze higher to Father in heaven.
 2. Looking upon God naturally overflows into: Worship God (Hallowed be Your name).
- C. Then we seek God's kingdom and His will. We ask for those realities of His rule and reign to be established where we are.
1. We have the privilege and responsibility of drawing from that age to come. Of inviting God's rule and reign today. Not: "Oh, God will do it if He wants to..." but an active seeking. We are inviting God's rule and power into our everyday lives through prayer.
Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
 2. God is looking for partnership. Prayer is about partnering with God.
 3. We now turn our attention earth-ward. God's kingdom and will are not limited to the heavenly realm. We've just asked for a breaking in of God's kingdom on earth. How does this workout in our daily lives?

II. GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD

- A. We are asking for our daily needs. This includes physical and spiritual needs.

John 16:24 Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

- B. After we have fixed our eyes on the Father in heaven, we can ask properly.

James 4:3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.

1. Don't rush straight into your needs. Gaze on the Father first. Our asking will be different when we know who it is that we're asking. We will have more faith.
2. How many of the things that we are concerned about will matter in 10, 20, or 50 years from now? Are they worth stressing over and becoming divided?
3. The point of prayer is not to make our list of needs known to God. God already knows before we ask Him (Matt. 6:8).
 - a. God is seeking a personal relationship, not an information sharing session where you give him your list of needs or wants.
 - b. This prayer reminds us that every good thing comes from God.
 - c. This prayer reminds us that God wants to do things on earth *in response* to our prayers. He is looking for partnership with Him.

- C. God really delights to hear you, delights to give good gifts even as daddy loves to bless his children. How much more!

If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him! (Matthew 7:11)

“Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. (Luke 12:32)

III. FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS

- A. We have trespassed over God's boundaries. In a moral and spiritual sense, we now owe God something. We need to confess our sins and ask God to forgive us (Psalm 66:18).

1 John 1:8-10 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

- B. We do not start out by feeling guilty and asking God to forgive us of our sins. “*I have sinned. I'm not worthy to see God.*” We are not to start in the negative. If we start in God, then we can deal with sin properly. We must avoid the unhealthy and untrue idea that we can earn God's favor and have Him listen to us now.

1. When we put our faith in Christ, our condemnation was removed. We no longer operate by condemnation but by fellowship

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. (Romans 8:1)

2. We do not have a sinful nature anymore. We have been made new creation. (2 Cor. 5:17). We still do have our flesh and we must deal with our sins, but it is not our nature. NIV incorrectly interprets (and translates) “flesh” as *sinful nature*.
 3. We must take responsibility for our sins. We can’t make excuses: *I was tempted, or the serpent made me do it*. God does not forgive excuses or rationalizations. Jesus died for our sins.
- C. We also need to forgive others (Matthew 18:32-34) if we want to be forgiven.
1. Only when we have 1) gazed on our Father in heaven (worship), 2) sought His kingdom and will, seeking His eternal kingdom, and 3) realized that our daily bread comes from God...can we realize how great and merciful and loving God is and forgive others.
 2. If we start anywhere else, we will not be able to forgive others.

IV. AND DO NOT LEAD US INTO TEMPTATION

- A. The previous phrase dealt with past/present sin. Now we deal with future sin situations.
- B. In this prayer, we are not asking God to not trick us to sin for God is not evil.

Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. ³ Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. (James 1:12-13)

- C. The grammar of the Greek can be understood as: “Lord, do not allow us to be led into temptation. I want to live in holiness and godliness.”

When He came to the place, He said to them, “Pray that you may not enter into temptation.” (Luke 22:40)

1. God provides us a way out. He delivers us.
No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. (1 Cor. 10:13)
- D. Temptation can lead to breaking down of our defenses to sin or if we overcome it, temptation can lead to our strengthening and victory over sin. Temptation can be either positive or negative depending on our viewpoint and our response to it.

Knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴ But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. (James 1:3-4)

1. Temptation means not just temptation to sin, but in the wider sense of testing.

Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." (Genesis 22:1)

2. Sometimes, God will allow temptations to come into your life. Temptation is a test. Facing temptation reveals the condition of our hearts. This is not temptation to sin, but it is an opportunity for promotion, to be approved of God.

Luke 4:1-2 Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness...

3. When you are tempted, tested, what is inside will be revealed. God has already given us His grace. Through testing and trials, what is in us is revealed. God brings it out of us.

Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region. (Luke 4:14)

- a. This prayer is not a prayer to avoid our faith being testing (James 1:3-4).

Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Mark 14:38)

4. When we are tempted, we can approach God's throne of grace to find strength to resist the temptation. Jesus is our High Priest who sympathizes with our weaknesses (Heb. 4:15-16).

- a. Pray this regularly, before you get in the "swirl."

- b. Jesus prays for Simon Peter (Luke 22:31-34).

And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. ³² But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren." ³³ But he said to Him, "Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death." ³⁴ Then He said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me." (Luke 22:31-34)

E. "Deliver us from evil."

1. We desire to live in holiness and godliness.
2. We pray for God's protection.
3. Don't fear the devil. He will flee from you.

1 John 4:4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

James 4:7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

V. CONCLUSION

- A. Follow the Lord in this prayer. Let this be a pathway into the very heart of God.