

September 2022 Prayer Diary

The Lord's Prayer



1. Our Father, which art in heaven
2. Hallowed be thy name.
3. Thy kingdom come.
4. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
5. Give us this day our daily bread.
6. And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
7. And lead us not into temptation
8. But deliver us from evil:
9. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory
Forever.
Amen.

When we walk with the Lord
In the light of His word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will,
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey!

*Trust and obey!
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey.*

1. Our Father, which art in heaven

To whom are we to address our prayers?

In Matthew 6 v 9 Jesus teaches us that it is God our heavenly Father we address.

'Our Father, which art in heaven'

The reason we are able to pray to God the Father is Jesus.

Jesus answered, **"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."**

John 14 v 6

But more than this. Because of His death and resurrection He is our mediator before a holy God.

For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the Man Christ Jesus*, who gave Himself as a ransom for all...

1 Timothy 2 v 5, 6

How do we know what to pray?

As believers we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit and He is the one who prompts us to pray and also what we should pray for.

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

Romans 8 v 26, 27

So our prayers should be addressed to our heavenly Father and end with our understanding of the reason we can pray to Him - 'in Jesus name we ask' and the Holy Spirit gives us the guidance of what to pray.

2. Hallowed be Thy name

Hallow definition:-

To keep holy and set apart, to exalt, to honour above all else.

How do we hallow God?

"You shall have no other gods before me."

"You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name."

Exodus 20 v 3, 7

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—which is your spiritual worship.

Romans 12 v 1

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

1 Peter 2 v 9

Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

2 Corinthians 7 v 1

“Consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am the Lord your God. Keep my decrees and follow them. I am the Lord, who makes you holy.

Leviticus 20 v 7, 8

But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”

1 Peter 1 v 15, 16

Have we set ourselves apart to God?

3. Thy kingdom come

In Acts 1 the disciples ask Jesus if he has come to set up a physical kingdom. Jesus reply was no. So if not a physical kingdom what did Jesus mean by "Thy kingdom come"?

So when they met together, they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1 v 6 - 8

A kingdom has a ruler - one to whom its citizens submit and obey. God's kingdom (although not being physical at this present time) is God's sovereign right to rule in the lives of those who choose to believe in His Son and on His sacrifice for them.

Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, “The kingdom of God does not come visibly, nor will people say, ‘Here it is,’ or ‘There it is,’ because the kingdom of God is within you.”

Luke 17 v 20, 21

As believers we accept that we are part of God's kingdom but do we submit to and obey God? Do we allow Him sovereign rule over our lives?

4. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven

This is an extension of 'Thy kingdom come' - allowing God's will to rule our lives.

How do we know God's will in our lives?

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29 v 13

Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3 v 5, 6

We have the expression 'where there's a will there's a way' and this can also be used in reference to God - where there is God's will there is also God's way.

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,”
declares the Lord.

“As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Isaiah 55 v 8, 9

Since the garden of Eden there has been disobedience and a battle of wills between God and mankind. Adam chose to listen to his wife Eve instead of listening to God and mankind has suffered the consequences since. The Israelites, His own chosen people, battled against God and incurred judgment on many occasions. As fallible human beings it is also safe to say that the church also battles against the will of God and way of God. Often we can adopt the attitude of 'Thy will be done but I'll do it my way'. But God has given us instructions (as He did with the Israelites through Moses) through the teachings of Paul and the Apostles, in His word - the bible, on His way of doing His will. Jesus is the perfect example of carrying out the Father's will the Father's way.

For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.

John 6 v 38

“My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.

John 4 v 34

“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.”

Luke 22 v 42

Jesus did the Father's will in the Father's way and it cost Him everything.

Abba Father, let me be
Yours and Yours alone.
May my will forever be
Evermore Your own.
Never let my heart grow cold,
Never let me go.
Abba Father, let me be
Yours and Yours alone

5. Give us this day our daily bread

And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4 v 19

Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word."

Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah: "Leave here, turn eastwards and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. You will drink from the brook, and I have ordered the ravens to feed you there."

So he did what the Lord had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook.

1 Kings 17 v 1 – 6

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

James 1 v 17

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Matthew 6 v 33, 34

Our heavenly Father knows we have daily needs whether it be food, strength, encouragement, opportunities, friends. We just need to trust His provision and to be thankful for it.

6. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

For if you forgive other men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Matthew 6 v 14, 15

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

Matthew 5 v 7

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians 4 v 32

Our salvation is through faith in Jesus and acceptance that he died for us and we cannot earn God's forgiveness. But God's daily forgiveness of our sins is dependent on our forgiveness of those who sin against us. Our forgiveness of other people's actions maintains our fellowship with God, so if we want to have an intimate relationship with God and become more like Him, we must forgive others.

7. Lead us not into temptation

Test? Temptation? Trial?

This could be a 'which came first' question.

A trial can lead to a temptation, a temptation can become a test. And if temptations and tests are prolonged they can become a trial.

But the bible tells us we will come under attack.

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you.

1 Peter 4 v 12

Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

James 1 v 12

The bible also tells us that it is not God that tempts us.

When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

James 1 v 13 - 15

This line of the Lord's prayer is asking that we might be spared from situations that might lead us into sin. But should we find ourselves tempted, God provides a way of escape if we are prepared to listen to Him and our lives are focused on Him.

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

1 Corinthians 10 v 13

8. But deliver us from evil

Jesus death and resurrection was the momentous occasion that sealed Satan's fate, but while time continues the 'war' continues. He has been defeated but he will take as many with him as he can!

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,

Colossians 1 v 13

We have been delivered from eternal separation from God, but we are given instructions on defending ourselves from Satan's attacks in the here and now.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled round your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Ephesians 6 v 10 - 18

We need to know God's will and God's ways to enable us to use this armour and we can only know that by study of God's word, the bible, and prayer. We also need to understand 'the devil's schemes'. He doesn't just attack us individually, he will also attack the church corporately who are God's collective representatives on earth. He is no respecter of boundaries and will not stop at the 'door to the church'. What better way to subvert God and His purposes than to attack the church corporately and render them less effective in their commission! Notice the first element of armour – the belt of truth. If we do not put on the belt of truth the rest of the armour has nothing to hold it in place. If we do not have on the belt of truth we will be unable to discern the devil's 'fiery darts' let alone stand against them. The rest of the armour is only effective if we have the belt of truth in place.

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith,....

1 Peter 5 v 8, 9

The devil is no respecter of boundaries – he will not stop at the ‘door of the church’, BUT God does if we are unwilling to follow His ways and His commands.

“To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation. I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. **So be earnest and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.**

To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Revelation 3 v 14 - 21

The church in Laodicea, obviously wealthy and thriving and relying on doing things their own way - unable to see God’s way, receives only criticism for its lukewarm spirituality. God wants us to open the door to Him and His way.

9. For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, now, and evermore. Amen

This line of the Lord’s prayer is a paraphrase of David’s prayer in 1 Chronicles.

Some bible translations omit this final doxology believing it does not have support from original manuscripts but is it in keeping with the theme of praise in prayer from the rest of scripture?

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and
the power
and the glory and the majesty and
the splendour,
for everything in heaven and
earth is yours.
Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom;
you are exalted as head over all.
1 Chronicles 29 v 11

Many Psalms start with praise and end with praise and in between are the requests, the worries, the pleas and the thanks. Whether Jesus said these words or they were added later, they are consistent with the theme of praise throughout the scripture and there is no better way to begin and end our prayers than to praise God for who He is and what He has done.

Amen.

Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet, and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing
Always, only, for my King;
Take my lips, and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect, and use
Every power as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it Thine;
It shall be no longer mine:
Take my heart, it is Thine own;
It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store:
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.

Questions for thought

1. How does God make His will known to us?

Our feelings can change from one minute to the next and also caught up in what is going on around us but also we can have a strong desire to serve the Lord 'in our own way'.

1 Chronicles 22 v 7 – 19 tells us of King David's desire to build the temple but God said no.

If we feel God is asking us to do something our first port of call should be:

What does the bible say about what I think God is calling me to do? Does what I think contradict what the bible says? God does not and cannot contradict Himself!

2. How does God get our attention if we are outside of His will?