

# The Prayer that Changes Me

Matthew 6:9-13

The Bible opens with God creating mankind to walk and talk with Him in a paradise called Eden.

The Bible closes with God bringing redeemed humans to the eternal paradise where they can see Him and commune with Him forever.

Between those opening and closing events, God came as a man. Jesus Christ is God in human flesh; and He expresses to us that very same desire of God for our fellowship and communion with Him. Jesus said that God has a way He wants us to come and talk to Him.

Jesus left us a pathway to follow, a pattern to be sure we trace, markers to follow so that we get to the desired place of communion and fellowship with God. Today we need to be sure that we are praying the prayer that changes me.

Jesus never taught His disciples how to preach, He only taught them over and over how to pray.

God wants us to pray, He invites us to pray, and in Matthew 6 He even gave us a specific list of the type of words He wants to hear.

## Praying What God Wants Heard

There is a question we need to ask ourselves: ***is God hearing what He seeks to hear from us as we pray?***

To help, we are going back to the most well known passage in all of God's Word even to unbelievers. There are more millions of people around the world that for the past 20 centuries have recited these words, than ANY other portion of God's Word!

God gave a pattern for each of us made up of 7 clear petitions. These are words from our hearts that God WANTS to hear.

These words, if from our whole heart, will CHANGE us more and more to Christ's image.

The content of our prayers are so important to God that He has mapped out a series of petitions we are to be sure that we are offering to Him ceaselessly.

These cries from our hearts should rise to God daily, hourly, and as we grow closer and closer to Him: moment-by-moment.

What exactly am I talking about? The request from Jesus to each of us this morning is that we pray "after this manner" or we could say: "following this pattern".

God wants us talking to Him, He wants specific content, and He waits and watches for us all through our days. His only request for our seeking Him in prayer is that we seek Him with all our hearts (Deuteronomy 4:29).

But often we want to respond, we want to obey, but we just don't know where to start, or what to do. To change all of that, Jesus speaks. Here are God's desires, captured by Christ's words to us.

There are 72 words in the Lord's prayer, that by faith and obedience, can become the most powerful words to the lives of each of us Christ's children. Please open there with me to Matthew 6:9-13

Please stand with me and listen to the voice of God in Matthew 6:9-13.

In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

<sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come.

Your will be done On earth as *it is* in heaven.

<sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread.

<sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.

<sup>13</sup> 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

## **Pray**

Jesus says that these words are just a pattern. This list could be called God's list of prayer requests. These are the items God wants to have as a part of our prayers each time we come to Him.

But the pattern has become so familiar that sometimes we need to step back and remind ourselves what exactly the pattern was intended to prompt in us.

That is what these 7 specific prayer requests are to do: remind us what God wants to hear from us. If you are a note taker, jot these down. If you don't take any notes, try to remember these elements and then the next time you pray, offer these requests back to God.

# God's List of Requests We Should Ask Him for

1. **FOCUS Me:** v.9 In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.
  - *God wants me to constantly remind myself of just Who it is I am talking to.*
  - John 1:1-3 (Creator),
  - John 5:28 (Judge);
  - Col. 1:15-16 (Sustainer);
  - Hebrews 1:3 (Exact Representation of God), who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
  - Hebrews 11:3 (Framed the Universe with a word!).
  - This One holds in His Hand my life's breath (Daniel 5:23).
  - He has told me that life eternal is when I KNOW Him (John 17:3).
  
2. **CONTROL Me:** v. 10a Your kingdom come.
  - *God wants to rule over every dimension of my life; and for me to surrender to that rule.*
  - Matthew 6:33 seek His rule FIRST;
  - Matthew 7:21-27 the saved are those who are not just saying they want God's control, but are submitting to it.
  - In Mark 10:17-27 the Rich Young Ruler learned that he had to face his own sin, decide to follow Christ or turn his own way.
  
3. **LEAD Me:** v. 10b Your will be done On earth as *it is* in heaven.
  - *God wants me to be like Christ.*
  - We are most Christ-like when we have the same attitude Jesus had while on Earth.
  - Jesus is seen over and over again declaring that He wanted to follow God's will (John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38-40; 7:17; 9:31; Hebrews 10:5-7).
  - Christ bought me I Corinthians 6:19-20
  - We are to present our bodies back to Him Romans 12:1-2
  
4. **SUPPLY Me:** v. 11 Give us this day our daily bread.
  - *God wants me to need Him on a daily and soon moment-by-moment basis.*
  - He wants me to ask for what I need for today.
  - One of the great curses on the church is the false teaching that God wants us to be healthy, wealthy, and prosperous. The Bible actually says God wants us weak so He can be strong; poor so His riches are needed; and dependent so He can meet our needs constantly.
  - Philippians 4 talks about the struggle each day really is to be. Life is hard, we must learn to seek Christ as our daily bread.

5. **CLEANSE Me:** v. 12 And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.

- *God wants me to never forget how many sins He has forgiven me, that I was responsible for; and how impossible my debt to Him really was; so that I am never unforgiving to others.*
- Ephesians 4:32 sums up my attitude towards God and all others.
- I am to be confessing as I John 1:9 says (present active indicative), and remembering that He has already once and for all forgiven me.
- Mark 3:28 all sins are forgivable.
- If I am unforgiving then Matthew 18:21-35 applies to me.

6. **PROTECT Me:** v. 13a And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.

- *God wants me to seek and find His constant protection from my spiritual enemies.*
- The devil prowls like a dangerous predator I Peter 5:8-9, by humility we vigilantly resist him.
- I can only resist the devil by submission to God as James 4:7-10 teaches.
- I must learn to close the door to the devil as Ephesians 4:25-32 teaches.
- The summary of Revelation 12:9-11 explains that we can overcome through Christ.

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

- God wants me to keep the spotlight of my life upon Him. Life is not about me but Him.
- Look at the words again. We could distill down the whole prayer to: Our Father, Thy Name, Thy Kingdom, Thy Will: so give us, forgive us, lead us, deliver us; For Thine is EVERYTHING!
- Remember what is going on right now at the center of the Universe, God's Throne.
- Daniel 7:9-10 talks about that river of fire.
- Paul says we must present our accounting to Him in Romans 14:7-12. That is empty our shopping cart and let it go through the fire of that river before His Throne and see what made it to Heaven as a gift for Him who loved us and gave Himself for us!
- Romans 12:1-2 says that living sacrifices are those who only live for what God wants offered to Him; they only put in the cart what please Him!

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