

Ask for the Love of God

The Lord's Prayer – Part 3

Luke 11:2; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 10-1-17

We want to unpack this request: ‘Hallowed be Your name.’ These phrases or statements in the Lord’s Prayer are meant to summarize and point to all kinds of truth. Therefore, we need to unpack each one like we would our suitcase on a trip, in order to fully appreciate what is being said. One place to start is with various translations.

- ‘hallowed’ = treat as holy, reverence; sanctify, make holy
- ‘name’ = a person in light of all he is; especially in light of his reputation or fame

Prayer is a crucial element in seeking God for LIFE. We need to see how prayer relates to some of the most basic exhortations that we find in Scripture. Seek God for LIFE. - John 4:10

‘Prayer is an offering up of our desires to God, for things agreeable to his will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of his mercies.’ Prayer can be defined in a number of ways but all of them should reflect what we see in this definition of prayer in the Westminster Shorter Catechism. At its heart prayer is asking according to desires shaped by the Word of God. – Mark 10:36

Ask God to teach you to pray – how to pray and to keep on praying. We don’t know how to pray and we are slow to pray. That’s why we need to be taught how to pray and taught to pray rather than not pray. We should pray about praying! – Luke 11:1; Psalm 50:15

Pour out your heart in prayer (freedom) with the pattern for prayer in view (boundaries). The Lord’s Prayer is the divine pattern for prayer, which we ignore to our own peril. At the same time, we are encouraged to pray spontaneously and freely. This gives us the picture of praying freely within defined boundaries, for God’s glory and our good. – Psalm 62:8; Matthew 6:9

Go to God as your Father who is willing and able to help, like a good, good Father. The Lord Jesus tells us to pray to God as our ‘Father’, not because we cannot or should not address Jesus or the Spirit in prayer, but because our heart attitude and expectation in prayer will be shaped by how we see and approach God in prayer. – Luke 11:2; Romans 8:15; Luke 11:11-13

The first request is for the glory of God in the love of God. ‘Hallowed be Your name’ means to desire the glory of God, especially through the love of God. We are asking for God to be made much of! – Psalm 86:12; John 12:28; Matthew 22:35-38; 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, 13.

The first request is our greatest need. ‘Hallowed be Your name’ highlights that we need to understand our greatest need. Our first and top request must be our greatest need. – Revelation 2:1-5

Set God apart and honor Him as unique/special in your life and affections. ‘Hallowed be Your name’ is ask that we treat God and His character as holy (set apart, unique, pure). – Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 4:8; Psalm 52:9; Psalm 54:6; Psalm 99:3; Psalm 73:25

Rest in Jesus and His righteousness alone for your righteousness. ‘Hallowed be Your name’ is to ask that we would rest in the name of Jesus. To glorify God’s name is to trust/rest in His name, especially for salvation and then for all of life. – Matthew 11:28-30; Romans 5:17-19; Romans 10:12-13; Psalm 9:10; Psalm 33:21; Isaiah 50:10; John 15:16

Hope in God alone for your help and happiness. ‘Hallowed be Your name’ is to ask that we would look to God in all things and above all things for the help we need and the happiness our hearts long for. To treat God’s name as holy is to hope in His name. – Matthew 12:21; Psalm 42:5; Psalm 16:11

Pursue love for God above all else and as necessary for all other love. It matters what order the love of God takes in our lives. ‘Hallowed be Your name’ means that His name is loved. – Psalm 5:11; Psalm 69:36; Psalm 119:132; Hebrews 6:10. What does pursuing love for God look like.

- Fight idolatry (competitors to God). – Exodus 20:3
- Think rightly about God (theology). – Exodus 20:4-6
- Speak well of God and His reign (response to providence). – Exodus 20:7
- Worship God as He prescribes (practice). – Exodus 20:8-11

Get to know God better as He has revealed Himself in the Word, especially in the Person and work of Jesus. We can’t recognize or love someone we don’t know. – Jeremiah 4:22; Jeremiah 9:23-24; Hosea 4:6; Romans 10:17; John 14:8-9; 1 John 4:14-16

Get to know God better by tracing all the good things you enjoy back to God and give Him praise. God has filled the world with good things that are meant to teach us about Him. – 1 Timothy 6:17; James 1:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; 2 Samuel 22:50; Psalm 5:11; Psalm 48:10

Ask God to cause you to love Him with all you are and all you have. The greatest things are the things we can’t do on our own and that we need to ask for most! – James 4:2; Ezekiel 18:31; Luke 11:9-10; Luke 11:13

Ask for everything else ‘for His name’s sake.’ Our greatest basis for appeal to God for things from God is the name of God Himself. All the rest of our requests are to be ‘for His name’s sake.’ – Deuteronomy 28:58-59; Revelation 15:4; Psalm 31:3; Psalm 79:9; Psalm 109:21; Psalm 143:11; 1 John 2:12