

We are Believer Priests

John 14:13-14 – “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. 13 Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask me[e] anything in my name, I will do it.”

Hebrews 10:19-25 – *“Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”*

1 Peter 2:4-5, 9 – *“As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ...But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”*

God Has a General Will which is found in his written revelation. This is referred to in 1 John 5:14-15. If you don't know the word of God (the written revelation), you will not know how to pray.

“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.” – 1 John 5:13-15

God Has a Specific Will for our lives which is heavily influenced by what we do, what we want, and how we pray. Sometimes God will set aside our desires to fulfill a greater purpose (2 Corinthians 12:8-9), but this is not the norm. This does not mean we stop asking and pursuing what we want in prayer, because asking, seeking and knocking is normal prayer. These prayers are answered.

“Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” – 2 Corinthians 8-10

Lord's Prayer - Matthew 6:9-13

"Our Father in heaven",

A. First three points concern God's General Will and the Kingdom.

Each of the three points can refer our desires to align with God's will today in the temporal world and our desires to align with God's eschatological will that will be accomplished at the end of time:

1. **"Hallowed by your name"** - "hallow" means to treat as holy and reverent. Name refers to God himself, his character and all he is. Today you desire his name to be honored but concerning the future you are desiring that his name be honored as it says in Philippians 2:10, "Every knee shall bow and every tongue confess." This is the first point of God's general will that God is manifesting today in the earth but will ultimately bring about the complete fullness of this in the future.

2. **"Your kingdom come"** - You desire his kingdom (its principles, values, practices, etc.) be advanced today and you desire the ultimate manifestation of the coming of God's kingdom to the earth as declared in Revelation 11:15, "Now the kingdoms of the world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ." Again, this is God's overall plan that will be accomplished in God's time by his power. It is going to happen and you are desiring its fulfillment. According to Psalm 2, the kingdom's of this world and the kings of the world are resisting the Kingdom of God today and will continue to do so until they are overthrown.

3. **"Your will be done"** - You desire God's will be done today in the world of men and you desire God to fulfill his ultimate plan for all of history and mankind. This includes desiring God's moral demands be met and God's predetermined events occur.

B. The second set of three points concerns God's specific will for your life.

This model prayer shows us we should be concerned about three areas of our own life. These are things you want to ask God for in your life. Remember, "you do not have because you do not ask." These are not things that are under God's predetermined will for all of history, but things specifically relating to you and your life. Do you want daily provisions, forgiveness from past sins and divine guidance in this evil world? Ask for it. The first refers to the present, the second to the past and the third to the future.

1. **"Daily Bread"** - this concerns your daily provisions and needs today. This is a request for your physical needs to live your life. Ask and it will be given to you.

2. **"Debts"** - this concerns your past. You want to be forgiven by God. Forgiving others does not earn God's forgiveness, but when you forgive others, you indicate that you have the capacity (the attitude, humility, understanding) to accept God's forgiveness of your sins.

3. **"Lead us not into temptation, deliver us from evil"** - this concerns our future. You do not desire to give in to sin and temptation in your life. You are asking for divine guidance and divine strength.

In summary

A. God's general will

1. Honor of God's name
2. Coming of God's kingdom
3. Fulfillment of God's will

B. Your specific will

1. Present needs met
2. Past sins forgiven
3. Future guidance and deliverance

These are all written in the **imperative mood** which means they are written or spoken as commands!

1. Jesus did not tell us to pray in the subjunctive mood (mood of potential) as in this might happen but it might not?
2. Jesus did not tell us to pray in the indicative mood (mood of reality) as in this is the way it is, it is God's will, it won't change.
3. Jesus did not tell us to pray in the optative mood (mood expressing wish or desire) as in this is the way I wish it would be.
4. Jesus told us to pray this way:
 - a. God's name is honored,
 - b. God's kingdom come,
 - c. God's will be done,
 - d. Give us provisions,
 - e. Forgive us our sins,
 - f. Guide us and deliver us in this evil age.

James 4:2-4 – “*You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. You adulterous people!*”

Prayer

Human Influence & Responsibility

- "You do not have, because you do not ask God." -James 4:2
- "For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ. And so through him the 'Amen' is spoken by us to the glory of God." - 2 Corinthians 1:20
- "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened." Matthew 7:7-8

Believer/Priest in Christ before God

- "I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it." John 14:13-14
- "Since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, . . . let us draw near to God." Heb. 9:19 (also 1 Pt.2:5, 9; Rev. 1:6)

Types of Prayer (Ep.6:18)

1. Confession-1 Jn.1:9; Daniel 9:5
2. Adoration/Praise-Ps.34:11; 103:1
3. Thanksgiving-Col.4:2; Phil.4:6
4. Petitions/Supplications/Requests-James 1:5-8; Ps.142:1; Heb.5:7
5. Intercession for Others- James 5:16; Acts 8:24; 2 Timothy 2:1

How To Pray

1. Persistence-Luke 11:5-9; 18:1; Ephesians 6:18
2. Boldness/Confidence - Heb. 4:16
3. Reverence-Is. 66:2; Ps.111:9; 89:7
4. Alert - Col.4:2; Luke 21:26
5. Forgiving - Mt.6:12-15; 18:21-35; Ephesians 4:32.

Steps to Prayer

1. Confession - Psalm 66:18
2. Thanksgiving - Ephesians 5:20
3. Intercession - Ephesians 6:18
4. Petition for Needs - Eph. 6:18

Hindrances to Prayer

1. Lack of Faith - Matt. 21:22; Mark 11:24; Phil.4:6 (anxious)
2. Wrong Motive - James 4:2-3
3. Sin - Psalm 66:18
4. Hard Heart to others - Prov. 21:13
5. Strife in home - 1 Peter 3:7
6. Pride - Job 35:12-13
7. Carnal/No Spirit - Eph. 6:18
8. Disobedience/Rebellion- Eph.6:18
9. Against God's General Will - 1 Jn. 5:14-15 (Must know God's Word)
10. Against God's Specific Will - 2 Cor.12:8-9 (Trust Unknown Plan)

Breakdown of the Lord's Prayer

Our Father - close, personal, familiar relationship with God
in heaven - his abode and seat of sovereign rule is highest possible
hallowed be your name - familiarity and sonship does not diminish our awe, fear and respect of our God
your kingdom come - God's ultimate will is the coming of his Son's rulership and kingdom. You desire the fulfillment of this.
your will be done - You desire, first, that God's will be done
on earth as it is in heaven - You desire God's will, not the will of man, nor your will, be done on earth in fullness and completion.
Give us today our daily bread - you also have your own will and desires that agree with God's but go beyond his general plan and will
Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.-Forgive
Lead us not into temptation - Pray for your battle with sin & temptation
deliver us from the evil one - reject the counter kingdom of darkness; ask for deliverance from situations



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Lord's Prayer:

- Luke 11:1-13
- Matthew 6:5-15

Types of Prayer - Ephesians 6:18 – “Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, 18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, 19 and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.”

1. Confession

- a. 1 John 1:9 – “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
- b. Daniel 9:4-6 – “I prayed to the Lord my God and made confession, saying, “O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, 5 we have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules. 6 We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.”

2. Adoration/Praise

- a. Psalm 34:1-3 – “I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad. Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together!
- b. Psalm 103:1-5 – “Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.”

3. Thanksgiving

- a. Colossians 4:2-4– “Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. 3 At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— 4 that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.”
- b. Philippians 4:4-7 – “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. 5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; 6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

4. Petitions/Supplications/Requests

- a. James 1:5-8 – “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”
- b. Psalm 142:1-2 – “With my voice I cry out to the Lord; with my voice I plead for mercy to the Lord. I pour out my complaint before him; I tell my trouble before him.
- c. Hebrews 5:7 – “In the days of his flesh, Jesus[a] offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. 8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered.”

5. Intercession for Others

- a. James 5:13-18 – “Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. 16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. 17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. 18 Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.
- b. Acts 8:24 – “
- c. 1 Timothy 2:1-4 – “First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, 2 for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. 3 This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

How to Pray

1. Persistence

- a. Luke 11:5-9 (in Lord’s Prayer section)
- b. Luke 18:1-9 – “And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. 2 He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. 3 And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’ 4 For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor respect man, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.’” 6 And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says. 7 And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? 8 I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?””