

JESUS TAUGHT US TO PRAY | Luke 11:1-13; Matthew 6:7-15

Jesus taught us to pray by giving us a model prayer; a framework with categories to pray through. Allow each phrase to launch you into places of expressed dependency and hope.

“Our Father”

We're invited to call Him Father. We can easily forget its significance. We are welcomed into his presence as children of His family and He looks on us with a father's love!

“In heaven”

He is the sovereign and self-existent God who is transcendent – high above all.

His greatness no one can fathom – eternal, infinite, almighty. He reigns.

“Hallowed be Your name”

What does *hallowed* mean? Essentially we're saying this, “*God, let Your name be acknowledged, honored, respected and revered. May we see you as holy and set apart! Both in my life and the lives of those around me!*” This is personal and evangelistic.

“Your Kingdom Come”

“*Father, your loving and just rule over us is a present reality and a future hope. We pray for others to know it and experience it.*” His Kingdom is a present reality. Christ rules and reigns in the hearts and lives of men, women and children who trust in Him, and yet it will be perfected at the return of Jesus. Pray for its extension and manifestation. “*Renew the church, bring salvation, restrain evil, heal the broken-hearted, restore those who are sick, expose injustice...*” It's a powerful request for victory and joy.

“Your will be done”

“*Father, we want to seek your glory, trust your care, obey your word...*”

Prayer isn't about us convincing God to do our will – it's about bringing our will in line with His. This isn't “*whatever will be will be.*” This isn't just handing our lives over to blind fate. This is expressed faith and love in our Heavenly Father - to accept whatever He sends our way (or doesn't send our way!) and to do so with the strength and grace He provides. In the face of opposition, in the face of big questions, in the midst of pain, sorrow, grief and tears...we cling to a faithful God, we cling to a loving God, we cling to a God who promises justice, restoration, renewal and our final redemption in Christ.

“On earth as it is in heaven”

“*Renew your church, save sinners, restrain evil, heal the broken-hearted, restore the sick, expose injustice...*” Moves into personal requests. Not a selfish prayer – instead a very communal prayer.

“Give us our daily bread”

“*You are what sustains us. You are the source of life. You provide my day-to-day needs. Our livelihood is in You. Keep us from believing the lie that all we have comes from our hands. It comes from yours.*” This involves a denying of our self-sufficiency - and an acknowledgment of our dependence on God. “*Bread*” covers all of life's necessities.

“Forgive us our debts (sin)”

It means we need to examine our life, confess our sin and live in a way that honors the Father. It means that in light of the forgiveness we've received we have absolutely no right to hold other's sin against them. Are we holding a grudge or justifying bitterness against anyone? “*Forgive each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*” Confession brings freedom.

“Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil (the evil one)”

Sin, the assaults of the devil, blindness of heart, lust, pride, hypocrisy, envy, hatred, bitterness, disregard for Holy Scripture (God's will). There's not a moment in time when you and I don't need God's protection and deliverance.

