

ENCOUNTER
PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer

SESSION 4



24-7 PRAYER

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01 "Teach us to pray..."

An estimated 2 billion people pray the Lord's Prayer on Easter Sunday every year. When Jesus' disciples asked Him, 'Teach us how to pray', the Lord's Prayer was His simple yet profound response.



"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

MATTHEW 6:9-13

02 "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name..."

☞ A.W. TOZER
[CHRISTIAN WRITER]

"What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us."

Sometimes it's difficult to refer to God as Father, because our own fathers may be unknown to us; or they might have been absent, abusive or dangerous. This makes God as "Father" a difficult concept.

The Bible says this:



"For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.'"

ROMANS 8:14-15

1

God is our biological Father (Genesis 1) – He created us and fashioned us. He made us everything that we are and breathed life into us.

2

God is our adopted Father – we were claimed by sin and darkness, but God chooses us as His own and adopts us as His sons and daughters.

3

An adoptive parent makes a choice; that's God's heart for us in adoption. It's a sacrificial choice for Him to purchase us but He chooses to.

Someone who is chosen by God is the object of choice or divine favour; selected or marked for favour or special privileges.

Despite what may have been good and what may have been bad in our earthly parents, God is a perfect parent. God is consistently good and kind to us.



"Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him!"

MATTHEW 7:9-11

It is important at the beginning of any prayer to remember we are coming to a loving, perfect Father who wants good things for us.

Just like it says in the book of James,



"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 1:17

How you think of God will affect how you approach Him; it's good to get a good understanding of Him as the perfect Father.

03

"Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven..."

God's kingdom on earth means His rule and His way. Remembering that God's ways are perfect, we pray His kingdom to come in a whole host of situations.

We pray that God that would bring His kingdom to people, places and situations. In the original Greek, this line can be translated as, **"Come, Kingdom of God! Be done, will of God!"**

God's will is what God wants for us. Jesus prayed:



"My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

MATTHEW 26: 39

It's always helpful to pray that God's will would be done in your own life, your family, friends and in your nation.

04

“Give us today our daily bread...”

We all have daily needs, and they are not always physical. What do you really need? Peace; comfort; provision? God wants to hear about your needs.



“And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.”

PHILIPPIANS 4: 19

God’s ear is attentive and he will listen to you any time. By asking him for your own needs you are not being selfish, just confessing your dependence on Him.

05

“And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors...”



NICKY GUMBEL
[LEADER OF HTB CHURCH, LONDON]

“Forgiveness saves the expense of anger, the cost of hatred, the price of energy and the waste of headspace.”

Forgiveness is not something that happens once; we may have to forgive others, ask for forgiveness and forgive ourselves on a regular basis.

When it comes to prayer, we need to ask ourselves: is there anyone I have hurt that I need to ask forgiveness from? Is there anyone who has hurt me that I need to forgive?



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

MATTHEW 6:14-15

Forgiveness is about letting go. It can also be about praying God's blessing over those that have hurt us.



"Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse."

ROMANS 12:14

06

"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one..."

We are all tempted regularly, by many different things.



"No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. 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 endure it."

1 CORINTHIANS 10:13

Prayer is a way out of temptation. We need to be aware that there will always be temptation and evil. Coming to God in prayer heightens our awareness of these problems and gives us the strength to resist temptation.

A daily prayer life that asks for God's assistance with temptation and His help with evil will cause us to grow as stronger Christians, who live life increasingly free from sin.

07

"For yours is the Kingdom, the power and the glory for ever and ever..."

It's always good to finish our prayer times by remembering that God is powerful, eternal and glorious and ultimately in charge.