

## Jesus Teaches About Prayer

The disciples were not always well-educated men. Many of them had simple jobs and lacked any formal education. They simply did their job day to day and prayer was not a big part of it. So, they had seen Jesus praying like when he went up on the mountainside in chapter 6 and prayed all night before he chose the 12 apostles out of the many disciples. They recognized the example of Jesus speaking with God the Father and they desired to do the same.

Jesus offered a prayer that we most often call the Lord's Prayer, but it is really the disciples' prayer because He taught them how to pray. He already knew how. This particular prayer is addressed to Our Father in Heaven. So, Jesus is telling them that God is not only His Father, but theirs too. He says hallowed be thy name, which means that His name is holy. Jesus next talks about God's kingdom coming and His will being done on earth as it is in heaven.

We need to know that the kingdom on earth began on the day of Pentecost after Jesus rose from the dead. Lots to remember. A real important part is that Jesus tells us to forgive others when they sin against us and to ask God to forgive us also for our sins. He asks God to keep us from being tempted by sin and keep us from Satan's control.

The prayer is simple and to the point. We need to know how to pray.

Step # 1 Pray to God the Father

Step # 2 Thank God for those things He has done for us.

Step # 3 Ask God for a blessing on others.

Step # 4 Ask God for a blessing on us.

Step # 5 Ask God specifically for those things that we desire to help our lives be able to serve Him.

Special note! Be specific in prayer. Don't ramble. Don't pray out loud in public unless it is a blessing for a meal or in a group prayer setting. Don't ask God for material things just to satisfy your worldly desires. Be happy with what you have.

**Scripture:** Matthew 6: 5 – 15

<sup>5</sup> "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. <sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. <sup>7</sup> And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. <sup>8</sup> Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

<sup>9</sup> "This, then, is how you should 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 today our daily bread.

<sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

<sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation,<sup>[a]</sup>  
but deliver us from the evil one.<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>14</sup> For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup> But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

**Questions:**

1. Did Jesus tell the disciples to figure out how to pray on their own?
2. So, if He taught them to pray, should you ask your parents to help you learn how to pray?
3. Should you make a list of things to pray for?
4. Should our prayers be selfish and for our own desires?
5. Should we spend quiet time praying or should we pray in public so everyone can hear us?
6. Is prayer communication with God?

**Next Steps:** Pray!