

# What Should You Pray About?

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Luke 11:1-4

<sup>1</sup> To grow up spiritually, you need to pray consistently. The Bible says to **be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.**<sup>1</sup>

But how do you pray? What do you say? Do you simply memorize a little saying and repeat it every time you are asked to pray aloud?

Most of us memorized the Lord's Prayer and often repeated it with the rest of the congregation each Sunday during our worship time.

Let's recite it now. <sup>2</sup> **Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.** <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

<sup>2</sup> Matthew 6:9-13 from the King James Version of the Bible.

**Do you believe what you have just prayed?**

**It's a direct quote from the Bible. It is the prayer Lord Jesus taught His disciples when they asked Him how to pray. I hope you do believe it!**

**So, let's look at the Lord's sample prayer, this time recorded in the Gospel of Luke, to see what kind of prayer pleases God. <sup>4</sup>**

**From Luke, chapter 11, verses 1 through 4, **Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.** <sup>5</sup>**

## **I. God Wants You to Prepare to Pray**

**God wants you to prepare to pray. <sup>6</sup>**

**Verse 2 says, **Hallowed be Your name.** <sup>7</sup>**

**God wants you to prepare to pray by reverencing His name. **You reverence His name by realizing who you are and Who you are addressing!** <sup>8</sup>**



**Hallowed** means, in the original language, <sup>3</sup> to show a sacred respect to God. It is almost exclusively a Koine word, which means, to the original audiences, it was heavily influenced by its use in the Greek Old Testament – the Septuagint. <sup>4</sup> It was always the word that translated כָּרַע which means, to kneel down before a king or other respected person.

II Chronicles, chapter 6, verse 13, is one of these scriptures, **Now he had made a bronze platform, five cubits long, five cubits wide and three cubits high, and had placed it in the center of the outer court. He stood on the platform and then knelt down before the whole assembly of Israel and spread out his hands toward heaven.**

Understand that you are addressing the Creator, the absolute sovereign of the universe. 9

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<sup>3</sup> Ἀγιάζω.

<sup>4</sup> The popular Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible into the common Koine dialect of Jesus' day. It was believed to have been translated by seventy-two Jewish linguistic scholars during the third century BC.

**Name.** <sup>5</sup> In ancient cultures, and particularly in the Bible, names had a broader implication than we give them in our modern age. To us, we assign names because they sound pretty or because they have a special historical significance to us or our families. Maybe you are named after a relative or a famous person.

In ancient times names were given to reflect something of significance or to describe the course of their lives. Names may have identified that person with the expectations and hopes their family had for their total being, their hopes for the person's development into an adult.

God's name is so significant in the Jewish faith that when the divine name <sup>6</sup> is read in scripture (the "Tetragrammaton"), the word "LORD" <sup>7</sup> is substituted in its place. This is their demonstration of absolute respect for God! I have chosen that same practice in

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<sup>5</sup> Ονομα.

<sup>6</sup> יהוה.

<sup>7</sup> אֲדֹנָי.

**my own life. <sup>10</sup>**

**The second preparation for prayer is to make reconciliation with anyone who has contention with you. <sup>11</sup>**

**Lord Jesus said that reconciling yourself to others come before worshipping Him! <sup>8 12</sup> In Matthew, chapter 18, verses 23-35, Lord Jesus told a story about what God thinks of an unforgiving person after he had been forgiven for all of his sins. It isn't pleasant!**

**Now concerning the Lord's model prayer for His disciples and us. <sup>13</sup>**

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<sup>8</sup> Matthew 5:23-24 - Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.



## II. God Wants You to Pray About Certain Things

God wants you to pray about certain things. <sup>14</sup>

**God's will to be done.** Verse 2 says, **Your kingdom come.** The parallel passage in Matthew, chapter 6, verse 10 adds, **your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.** <sup>15</sup>

Where is God's will to be done? <sup>16</sup> **In you! Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts . . ."** <sup>9</sup>

The earthly part of the kingdom of God is the church, where His children are learning to obey His will! The church is a support group who gather together to adore Lord Jesus together and help one another grow spiritually! <sup>17</sup>

Answered prayer and righteousness are related. **The Lord is far from the wicked but he hears the prayer of the righteous.** <sup>10</sup> <sup>18</sup> Lord Jesus made you righteous

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<sup>9</sup> Colossians 3:15.

<sup>10</sup> Proverbs 15:29.

when you trust in what He did for you on the cross! God's word says, **The righteous will live by faith.** <sup>11</sup>

Your attitude needs to be right when you approach the Lord. You can't be knowingly sinning and expect answered prayer. Dwight L. Moody once said, "If I regard iniquity in my heart and am not willing to give it up, I need not pray, for there is no room in my life to receive the blessing I seek. You may take a bottle and cork it up tight and put it under Niagara, and yet not a drop of that mighty volume of water will ever get into the container. Therefore, if any unconfessed sin remains in my life and I am not willing to abandon it, I have blocked the channel between me and God." <sup>12</sup> <sub>19</sub>

Here are some Bible examples of people letting God rule in their hearts.

It was God's will for Moses to go to Egypt to set His people free. At Mount Horeb, Moses was tending his flock when he saw a bush burning but was not being

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<sup>11</sup> Galatians 3:11.

<sup>12</sup> "Some Principles of Prayer", Our Daily Bread.



consumed. When he got close to the bush, God revealed Himself to him. <sup>13</sup> God then told Moses to go to Egypt and talk to the Hebrews there. <sup>14</sup> Moses complied. <sup>15</sup> <sub>20</sub>

It was God's will to rescue the three Hebrew men in Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. They refused to compromise their faith by bowing down to the image of gold the emperor had commanded everyone to worship. After they refused the king's warning, they were thrown into a blazing hot furnace. Then, they were observed walking around in the furnace unscathed along with another who looked like "a son of the gods". <sup>16</sup> <sub>21</sub>

It was God's will to rescue the Apostle Peter from prison. <sup>17</sup> <sub>22</sub>

It was also God's will for the Apostle Paul to experience hardships during his ministry. Second

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<sup>13</sup> Exodus 3:1-5.

<sup>14</sup> Exodus 3:16.

<sup>15</sup> Exodus 4:29-31.

<sup>16</sup> Daniel 3:1-30.

<sup>17</sup> Acts 12:6-10.

**Corinthians, chapter 11, verses 24 through 28, Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers. I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. In spite of all this, the apostle remained faithful to his calling!** <sup>23</sup>

**Next, God wants you to pray for God giving you daily provisions.** <sup>24</sup> **Verse 3, Give us each day our daily bread.**

**He will because He promised He would!** <sup>25</sup> **But He**

wants you to ask persistently. <sup>18</sup> <sup>26</sup> He wants you to ask trusting Him. <sup>19</sup> <sup>27</sup> Lord Jesus tells you that seeking God's will results in His taking care of your physical needs! Matthew, chapter 6, verse 33, **But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.**

Here are some examples of God's provision. <sup>28</sup> Lord Jesus said that God feeds the birds. <sup>20</sup> But they have to go out and find the worms! <sup>29</sup>

He also said God clothes the common field flowers. <sup>21</sup> Certainly, if He takes care of them, He will take care of you! <sup>30</sup> In fact, the Bible gives us examples of God caring for His children exactly that way! He rained down manna in the morning and quail in the evening for the Israelites every day for forty years in the

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<sup>18</sup> Luke 11:5-9.

<sup>19</sup> Matthew 21:22 - If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.

<sup>20</sup> Matthew 6:26 - Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.

<sup>21</sup> Matthew 6:28-29 - And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.



desert! <sup>22</sup> He also provided water from a rock for all of them. But they had to go out and gather the food! <sup>31</sup>

God wants you to pray for **Him granting you forgiveness**. Verse 4, **Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us**. <sup>32</sup>

Lord Jesus died on the cross so that your sins might be forgiven. <sup>23</sup> <sup>33</sup> You find that cross by seeking His kingdom and His righteousness. <sup>24</sup> <sup>34</sup> Then, you initially respond to that cross when you repent of your former life and are baptized. <sup>25</sup> <sup>35</sup>

Then, as a believer, you continue to seek forgiveness as sin creeps into your life. First John, chapter 1, verse 9, promises that if we genuinely confess our sin,

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<sup>22</sup> Exodus 16:13ff.

<sup>23</sup> Romans 5:9-10 - Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

<sup>24</sup> Matthew 6:33 - But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

<sup>25</sup> Acts 2:38 - Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. And - Acts 22:16 - And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.

**God will forgive and cleanse us from sin each time. <sup>26</sup>**

**Each one of your prayers ought to be confession time!**

**36**

**But – God wants you to be a forgiving person before you can expect to be forgiven by Him! <sup>27</sup> <sub>37</sub>**

**God wants you to pray for **God's direction away from temptation**. <sup>38</sup>**

**How does God lead you today? Primarily through His word and His providence. <sup>39</sup>**

**How are you tempted? God's word says you are tempted by your own lust! <sup>28</sup> <sub>40</sub>**

**Satan is a player in all of this! <sup>29</sup> <sub>41</sub>**

**Some of the temptations are obvious: sex, drunkenness, recreational drugs, overeating, etc. You don't need God's direction away from those things. <sup>42</sup>**

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<sup>26</sup> ὁμολογέω = confess (is present tense).

<sup>27</sup> Matthew 18:23-35.

<sup>28</sup> James 1:13-14 - When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.

<sup>29</sup> Job 1:6-12 & 2:1-7.



**God's word tells us that our human tendencies are not righteously oriented. <sup>43</sup>**

**Isaiah, chapter 53, verse 6 says that we have all turned to our own way. <sup>30</sup> <sup>44</sup> Daniel, chapter 7, says that the great world empires are greedy, brutal and beast-like!**

**<sup>45</sup>**

**James, chapter 4, verse 1, tells us that fighting & wars come from selfish desires. <sup>31</sup> <sup>46</sup>**

**So, how God deliver you from evil? <sup>47</sup> He provides you a way of escape. First Corinthians, chapter 10, verse 13 says, . . . when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. <sup>48</sup>**

**When Lord Jesus was tempted, He used the escape route! Every time Satan tempted (he even used scripture!), Lord Jesus answered him by quoting back scripture He had memorized! <sup>32</sup> You can use that same escape route by memorizing Bible passages! <sup>49</sup> You**

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<sup>30</sup> Isaiah 53:6 - We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

<sup>31</sup> James 4:1 - What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you.

<sup>32</sup> Matthew 4:1-11.



**need direction from God's word! 50**

**The only way God will lead you is if you want Him to!**

**51**

**You need to surrender your life to Him!**

**It's important that you have the right attitude when you pray to God!**

**Here is a document I found, years ago, that I can't reference, but it fits here. I'll share it with you.**

**"We cannot say 'our' if you live only for yourself in a spiritual, watertight, compartment. You cannot say 'Father' if you do not endeavor each day to act like His child. You cannot say 'Who art in heaven' if you are laying up no treasure there. You cannot say 'Hallowed by Thy name' if you are not striving for holiness. You cannot say 'Thy kingdom come' if you are not doing all in your power to hasten that wonderful day. You cannot say 'Thy will be done' if you are disobedient to His word. You cannot say 'In earth as it is in heaven' if you refuse to serve Him here and now. You cannot**

**say ‘Give us . . . our daily bread’ if you are dishonest or an ‘under the counter’ shopper. You cannot say ‘Forgive us our trespasses’ if you harbor a grudge against someone. You cannot say ‘Lead us not into temptation’ if you deliberately place yourself in its path. You cannot say ‘deliver us from evil’ if you do not put on the whole armor of God. You cannot say ‘Thine is the kingdom’ if you do not give to the King the loyalty due Him as a faithful subject. You cannot say ‘The power’ if you fear what men may do. You cannot say ‘The glory’ if you seek honor only for yourself. You cannot say ‘Forever’ if the horizon of your life is bounded completely by the things of time.”**

**<http://biblelifemessages.org/>**