

Theme: Christians pray to our Father in heaven, the transcendent God who loves us, for His kingdom rule to come - both now and forevermore.

I. Finishing A Year of A Community of Prayer

- A. 2013 focal point - Growing As A Community of Prayer
- B. Looked a lot at both prayer & community
- C. We will conclude by looking at the Lord's Prayer
- D. Why did Jesus give us this prayer? What does it teach?
- E. How do we apply it as a community of prayer?

II. A Pattern for Prayer

- A. This prayer was given as a pattern - not just to be recited
After this manner therefore pray ye... (KJV)
This, then, is how you should pray.... (NIV) Matthew 6:9
 - 1. Jesus is not giving us a prayer to recite
 - 2. He is teaching us how to pray, by giving us a model
 - 3. This means if we wish to grow in prayer - study this
 - 4. This means if we wish to grow in prayer - follow this
- B. But memorizing and reciting this prayer is a good idea!
One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." ² He said to them, "When you pray, say: "Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Luke 11:1-2
 - 1. Different occasion, basically same prayer
 - 2. Jesus says to "say" these words

- 3. Christians have memorized this from earliest days
- 4. Didache - pray this three times a day
- 5. Can't follow the model if you do not know it!
- 6. This is why I am using KJV in this series - most have memorized in KJV (or Book of Common Prayer)

III. A Prayer To Our Father In Heaven

- A. A prayer to our Father in heaven - community
Our Father which art in heaven... Matthew 6:9 (KJV)
 - 1. This whole prayer assumes community - all plurals
Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. ¹⁰ Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: Matthew 6:9-13 (KJV)
 - 2. Christian prayer is offered as part of community
 - 3. Isolation from community of believers makes this prayer impossible!
- B. A prayer to our Father in heaven - loving Father
Our Father which art in heaven... Matthew 6:9 (KJV)
 - 1. We pray to our Father - not some harsh dictator
 - 2. Jesus probably used intimate word Abba
 - a. Used in mark 14:36; Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6
 - b. Intimate word for fathers - stresses relationship

3. Jesus may not have been first, but He stressed this
4. We come to our loving, intimate Father in prayer
5. This is only possible for those who are in Christ
6. He receives our prayers gladly - delights in them

C. A prayer to our Father in **heaven** - exalted Father
Our Father which art in **heaven**... Matthew 6:9 (KJV)

1. This reminds us that our Father is exalted
2. We must never forget we are approaching GOD
3. Some Christians have lost this - God is our buddy
4. As we will see, this dominates first half of prayer
5. We must never lose sight of God's transcendence
6. But this gives hope - He has power to act & answer!

IV. A Prayer Focused On God & His Kingdom

A. The first half of the prayer is focused on God & kingdom
Our Father which art in heaven, **Hallowed be thy name.**
¹⁰ Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is
in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread. ¹² And
forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. ¹³ And
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
Matthew 6:9–13 (KJV)

1. First three of six petitions about God - not us
2. Prayer begins with a focus on God and kingdom
3. A major focus in prayer should be God and kingdom

B. Three petitions - one basic request

1. A request for God's rule to be exercised & honored
2. Request that God be honored, worshipped, obeyed

C. All three have a future aspect that only God can do

1. Praying for things that are not yet here
2. Many scholars think primary focus is eschatological
3. These things only fully happen at return of Christ
4. Also link with Kaddish - which is eschatological
Glorified and sanctified be God's great **name**
throughout the world which He has created
according to His **will**. May He establish His **kingdom**
in your lifetime and during your days, and within the
life of the entire House of Israel, speedily and soon;
and say, Amen.

- a. Mentions name, will and kingdom - as does prayer
- b. Kaddish is clearly eschatological - consummation in view
- c. Likely means that Lord's prayer has eschatological aspect too

5. Only God can bring the Kingdom to completion

D. All three have a present aspect - we must live out our prayers

1. God's name is holy - whether recognized or not
2. In Jesus, God's Kingdom has already begun

3. If we pray for name to be hallowed, will obeyed - we must do this ourselves!

Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am going to do these things, but for the sake of **my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations** where you have gone. ²³ I will show the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, **the name you have profaned among them**. Then the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Sovereign Lord, **when I show myself holy through you before their eyes**. Ezekiel 36:22–23

- a. Our actions can profane God's name
 - b. God can show His holiness & glory through us
4. We can not pray for the kingdom and then not work for it - or work against it

V. Applying the Word

- A. Do my prayers follow this model?
 1. Do they display intimacy - prayer to the Father?
 2. Are they primarily concerned with God's will, kingdom & glory - or my desires?
 3. Are my prayers in union with the church?
- B. Does my life reflect the Lord's prayer?
 1. As always prayer changes something - me!
 2. If I consistently pray like this - it will change me!
 3. Is my life kingdom focused - or me focused?

C. The Lord's Supper - the Meal of the King & His Kingdom

Praying To Our Father In Heaven

Matthew 6:9-10 KJV

January 5, 2014

Communion

Philippians 1:2

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:2

After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. 10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Matthew 6:9–10