

Psalms that Correlate with the Lord's Prayer

These psalms form a "School of Prayer," teaching us the fundamental ways that the Psalmist and Jesus prayed. By praying the Psalms in this way we learn the Biblical language of prayer and then can use them as guides to write our own similar psalms.

1. Thanksgiving & Praise ("Our Father... hallowed by thy name")

- Psalm 57: God is glorious and loving – exalt him with a steadfast heart!
- Psalm 92: Pray and play on the Sabbath
- Psalm 95: To worship is to thank, praise, revere, listen, and obey God
- Psalm 100: Thanksgiving leads to praise
- Psalm 107: Give thanks in consolations and desolations
- Psalm 136: Give thanks – the Lord is good and his love endures forever
- Psalm 103-107, 111-118, 134-139, 145-150: Hallelujah Psalms

2. Submission to God / Wisdom ("Thy kingdom come...")

- Psalm 1: Live in the way of the righteous by delighting in God's Law
- Psalms 4 & 5: Learn the rhythm of evening and morning prayer
- Psalm 8: Worship your Creator and discover your belovedness as his creation
- Psalm 19: Listen to God in the wonders of nature and Word
- Psalm 119: Delight in God's Law
- Psalm 131: Practice simplicity and silence (Psalms 120-134 = "Pilgrim Psalms")
- Psalm 133: Practice spiritual friendship
- Psalm 139: Examine yourself in God's light

3. Petition: Comfort and Encouragement ("Give us this day...")

- Psalm 4: In distress you can be filled with God's love, joy, peace
- Psalm 16: Delight in God via saints, circumstances, and path of life
- Psalm 23: Grow with Good Shepherd through the soul seasons
- Psalm 91: In danger find refuge in God as a chick with Mother Bird
- Psalm 121: Trust in God's protection and care on your (or another's) journey

4. Petition: Longing for God ("Give us this day...")

- Psalm 27: Seek the Lord as your "One Thing" – even in trials
- Psalm 42: In troubles thirst deeply for the Living God

- Psalm 63: Hunger for God with all your soul
- Psalm 73: Make God the strength of your heart and your portion forever
- Psalm 84: Yearn for the lovely courts of the Lord and invite others inside

5. Confession of Sin (“Forgive us...”)

- Psalm 32: Confess your sins and be blessed
- Psalm 38: In guilt and pain cry out for your Savior’s help and answers
- Psalm 51: Confess your sin against God and be purified and restored
- Psalm 130: Wait for God’s forgiveness like a watchman waits for morning

6. Confession: Anger at Enemies (“Forgive us...”)

- Psalm 35: When mistreated let the Lord be the one to fight for you
- Psalm 59: When slandered with lies trust the Lord as your defender
- Psalm 69: When being hated sinks you in mire express anger to God
- Psalm 70: When people seek to harm you cry out to God
- Psalm 109: When betrayed vent anger to God and rely on his love

7. Temptation: Laments of grief or complaints (“Lead us not into temptation...”)

- Psalm 3: The model lament: crying out to the Lord and putting confidence in him
- Psalm 6: Pour out your tears and questions to God
- Psalm 31: In distress put your trust in God’s presence
- Psalm 64: When verbally attacked hide in God and rely on his justice
- Psalm 73: Praise and trust God even as wicked prosper and righteous suffer
- Psalm 102: In depression cry out to God and recall his power and care
- Psalm 142: Cry and complain to God and find that he’s your portion
- Psalm 143: In troubles thirst for God’s unfailing love and will

8. Temptation: Dark Night of the Soul; Laments and complaints that God feels distant (“Lead us not into temptation...”)

- Psalm 13: When God’s face is hidden learn to trust him in your heart
- Psalm 22: When it seems God has rejected you praise him anyway
- Psalm 77: When you don’t feel God’s love meditate on his goodness
- Psalm 88: When you’re in a dark pit and God seems angry cry out to him