

PRAYING THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer is often recited in churches or at religious events, but there's so much more to this prayer. Jesus provided this model as an outline to teach us how to pray in a way that connects us to God and empowers us to accomplish great things through Him. This model takes us through each part of The Lord's Prayer, showing us how to pray the way Jesus instructed.

Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day 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 evil.

MATTHEW 6:9-13

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN

God isn't interested in us practicing religion; instead, He desires a relationship with us. God has adopted us as His children and loves for us to call Him our Father. Starting our prayer time acknowledging our relationship with God is powerful for us and delights Him as well.

Proclaim your intimate relationship with God, addressing Him lovingly as your Father, and thanking Him that you are His child.

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

ROMANS 8:15

HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME

God loves when we worship Him, and there is power in His Name. Speak God's Names out loud. When we proclaim who He is, we not only worship Him, but we also remind ourselves how powerful and great our God is. Here is a list of some of His Names to help us worship Him specifically and personally:

God is Righteousness – He makes us clean

God is Sanctifier – He has called us and set us apart

God is Healer – He heals all our diseases

God is Banner of Victory – He defeated our enemies

God is Shepherd – He speaks to us and leads us

God is Peace – He is our peace in every storm

God is Provider – He supplies all of our needs

The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe.

PROVERBS 18:10

YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE, ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

Part of being a child of God is caring about what He cares about. We know His will is perfect, and we acknowledge His wisdom and sovereignty when we pray His agenda first.

Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

LUKE 12:31

Spend time focusing on what God is focused on. His priorities include:

- Saving the lost
- Wisdom and guidance for those in authority – parental, spiritual, governmental, work-related
- Accomplishing His purpose in our lives

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD

God promises to supply all our needs, and He wants us to come to Him with our problems, needs, and desires and to trust Him to provide. Ask God for what you need today. It may help to write down the concerns weighing on your mind or the desires of your heart. You can bring them to God, and trust Him enough to hand them over to Him fully. It may help to open your hands before God to physically show your surrender to Him. Problems can either be ours or God's; they can't be both.

I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?
My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

PSALM 121:1-2

FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS, AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS

God has offered us complete forgiveness, and we can receive it at any time. When we turn away from our sins and receive His forgiveness, our hearts are more prepared to forgive others as well. Ask God to check your heart and life and show you areas where you might need to ask for forgiveness from Him. Then, it is your turn to forgive those who have offended you. We can even choose to forgive people in advance. Ask God to forgive you and to help you forgive others.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 JOHN 1:9

AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL

Spiritual warfare can seem difficult to understand, but the Bible makes it very clear that we have an enemy who is trying to steal from us, kill us, and destroy us. As we pray, we take our stand against the enemy and fight from a place of victory through Jesus as we're empowered by His Holy Spirit. There is power in God's Word, and every lie the enemy has told us can be replaced with God's truth.

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

EPHESIANS 6:12

By recognizing that the enemy wants to destroy you, you can shed light on his lies and claim God's truth over your life. Ask God to show you any lies you're believing or areas of warfare happening in your life. Ask Him to expose the enemy and to help you understand and receive His truth. Simply speaking the Name of Jesus has great power in the spiritual realm. The Bible tells us in James 4:7 that if we resist the devil, he will flee from us. Through prayer, we can resist him and walk forward in freedom.