

## HC 122 – Pray You May Honor God’s Name

Beloved in the Lord:

You pray to your Father in heaven through faith in Jesus Christ (the basis of your prayer),

asking for things that are good for you and your neighbor to do the things God wants you to do (the goal of your prayer),

and you do so in a sincere and humble way (the attitude in your prayer).

But what specifically are those good things for which you must ask?

Today you will see the 1<sup>st</sup> of 6 petitions in the Lord’s Prayer. In this 1<sup>st</sup> petition you ask God that you might make his name holy (bring honor to his name).

And in order to make God’s name holy, you are really asking God to do 3 things – which are our headings.

Help me to know you

Help me to worship you

Help me to serve you

Our goals are: That you will be moved to pray “hallowed be your name” with all your heart, and that you will reflect God’s holiness in your life, worship, and service.

122 Q. WHAT DOES THE FIRST REQUEST MEAN?

A. Hallowed be thy name means, Help us to really know you, to bless, worship, and praise you for all your works and for all that shines forth from them: your almighty power, wisdom, kindness, justice, mercy, and truth. And it means, Help us to direct all our living– what we think, say, and do– so that your name will never be blasphemed because of us but always honored and praised.

Help me to know you

1. We often hear the term “Hallowed be your name,” so what does “hallow” mean?

“Hallow” means “holy.” In history, there was a day to honor holy men – November 1. It was called All-saints day or Hallowed Day. (The day before that, October 31, Hallowed Day Eve, was shortened to become Halloween.)

2. What does it mean to “hallow God’s name?”

When you hallow God’s name you hallow God. God’s name represents his person.

### **3. So if “name” represents the person, what does it mean to “hallow” God?**

You can't make God holy in his essential nature. He is already perfectly holy.

To “hallow” God means you **treat him as holy** and you **cause others to treat him as holy**. You **revere and respect him and urge others to do so**.

### **4. But in order to hallow God you have to know God.**

**You have to know his person.**

**You have to know his qualities.**

You have to **know his plan of salvation.**

**Jesus verified that without knowing God you cannot know truth.** God is the source of truth. Man corrupted truth because of his fall into sin and his consequent evil desires.

You must know God experientially, not just in your head. Jesus said so.

John 17: 3 "And this is **eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God**, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

### **5. How can you know God?**

**a. You must know God through his Word...a Word that the Father revealed through his Son and Spirit.**

Matthew 16: 17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and **blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.**

You have to let God write his Word on your heart! **So just don't say these words...act on them!!!**

Jeremiah 31: 33 "But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: **I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts;** and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 "No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' **for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest...**

**b. You must also know God's work through natural revelation and through history.** If you don't take the time to **see God in nature**, and if you **don't learn of him in history by reading good books**, you won't fully know who he is, and you

won't worship and serve him like you should...which is our next points:

## **Help me to worship you**

### **1. You hallow God's name when you worship and praise him.**

**a. You praise God for his unlimited power – on earth and in heaven.** That almighty power is seen in the creation of the world, and it is seen in the saving of wretched sinners.

**b. You praise God for his wisdom.** You see his wise way of creating and sustaining the world and you see his wisdom in working out salvation in the lives of mankind.

For example: **Jesus came at a time when it was historically perfect** for him to come. There was **peace** in the world through a strong Rome. There was **a common language**. There was **security**. There were **roads for traveling**. There was a **limit to Jewish power** (so they didn't kill him sooner). There was **respect for other religions**.

**c. You praise God for his kindness.** Even while man waited for Christ to come, God protected and provided for his people and kept the Line of Promise. Men tried to stop it, but couldn't. This is a repeated theme in the Old Testament.

**d. You praise God for his justice.** A justice that is permanently established so man would know exactly what God required. God does not have changeable justice like civil governments today.

**e. You praise God for his mercy.** Example: God did not destroy the world as he could have done when man sinned. God mercifully prepared a way back to him and told Adam and Eve of Jesus Christ – that eternal sacrifice for sins.

**f. You praise God for his truth.** God did not hide truth from man.

Examples: God told man exactly what his condition was and how he could be redeemed. Why? Man cannot understand truth; it is (and can) only be explained by God. Without God, your framework for truth is corrupted.

These are just 6 key attributes of God, but there are many others.

### **2. Look at scriptural illustrations of hallowing God's name and the resulting praise they bring to God.**

## The great Prophet Moses' account:

Exodus 34:6 And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, 7 "keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation." 8 So **Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped.**

**The godly King David** dedicated much of his life, including his nights, to bless, worship and praise God **for who God was and what he had done.** He wrote down many of the songs we still use today to hallow God.

Psalms 145:3 **Great is the LORD**, and greatly to be praised; And His greatness is unsearchable. 4 One generation shall praise Your works to another, And shall declare Your mighty acts. 5 I will meditate on the **glorious splendor** of Your majesty, And on **Your wondrous works.** 6 Men shall speak of the might of Your awesome acts, And I will declare **Your greatness.** 7 They shall utter the memory of Your great goodness, And shall sing of **Your righteousness.** ...**10 All Your works shall praise You...**

**The weeping prophet Jeremiah** yet praised God as all-seeing - omniscient. God saw the plight of the righteous and God saw the wickedness of the enemy.

Jeremiah 32:16...I prayed to the LORD, saying: 17 'Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, You have made **the heavens and the earth by Your great power** and outstretched arm. There is **nothing too hard for You.**

Jeremiah knew when men got this truth they would glory in the Lord.

Jeremiah 9:23..."Let not the wise man glory in **his wisdom**, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches; 24 But let him who **glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the LORD,** exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth...

**Even the saintly Mary** understood she should praise God for her salvation in Jesus Christ.

Luke 1:46 And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 And my spirit has rejoiced in **God my Savior.** 49 For He who is mighty has

done **great things for me**, And holy is His name.

**The most educated Apostle** understood he should praise **God** for his great knowledge.

**Romans 11: 33** Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How **unsearchable** are His judgments and His ways past finding out! 34 "For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?" 35 "Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?" 36 **For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.**

**Surely you too can praise God when you know him and his mercy.**

**Psalm 115: 1** Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, But to Your name give glory, Because of Your mercy, Because of Your truth.

**3. When you hallow God you will cause others to praise God...like your children...like your family and friends...**

**Help me to serve you**

**1. Not only are you to know God and praise God for all those things mentioned, you are also to live all of your life for the glory of God: in your home, job, church, supermarket, school, on the lake, or while visiting family and friends.**

**Romans 11:36-12:1 - 36** **For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things**, to whom be glory forever. Amen. I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies** a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your **reasonable service**.

It is especially important **even when you have troubles and tragedies** in your life to continue to serve God.

**2. You are to live a life of service under the direction of God.**

What you think, say, and do...must be directed by him.

There are no excuses based on contemporary situations **that will allow any excuse from faithfully obeying God's law.**

"I'm too busy to serve the Lord" just won't fly with him. "My studies are too hard" won't fly either!

Matthew 5: 16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your **good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**

**3. You are to serve God well so his name will never be blasphemed and God will never be cursed or treated with contempt.**

**Imagine the insults Aaron's sons brought on God** for their contempt of his name.

**Imagine the same contempt many preachers have brought on God** because of their sinful indulgence.

**Imagine if you are a Christian student in school and you cheat on a test...**won't that make your fellow students have little regard for the name of your Savior? That's not hallowing God!

**4. You serve God, by living for Jesus Christ, so that his name will be praised.**

Instead of causing blasphemy of God, you will cause men to praise him with clear tones of joy and thankfulness. When you stand for the principle of God's Word on civil issues or on the sports field, you will cause men to hallow God's name.

### **Conclusion:**

You must know God, his name and his nature, well. Many don't know him well. Others have a watered-down view of God. This is why they are never able to worship and serve God well.

But beloved in Jesus Christ:

**1. Dive into his Word so you know all the glorious details of God's nature and work.**

Be dissatisfied with just the knowledge that God is really, really great and he sent his Son to die for you.

**Know the greatness of his love, the fierceness of his anger, the awesomeness of his power, the strength of his discipline, and his controlling of all things and using even bad things for your good.**

Know his sadness at your sins, his Gospel truth by which you can live, and his joy at your prayer and worship. There is so much to learn about God.

**2. Learn to worship him- worship him as he has dictated in his word,** not based on what you may like or dislike, or what is popular, or what you think God might like or dislike. Only he determines how he is worshipped. If you worship in a wrong way, God's

name will not be hallowed.

**3. Serve the Lord like you belong to him**, like you are a redeemed child of King Jesus. Your walk, talk, and thoughts must reflect your knowledge of **who he is** and **what he has done** for you on the cross.

This will even cause others to hallow his name.

Finally, if God is not your Father, **you cannot hallow his name as Christ commands you to**. If you want to hallow God's name you have to become his child first, and he made that possible by his Son shedding his blood for your sins. **This is love at its best – for one to give his life as a substitute for a sinner**. Ask for adoption.