

Preface and Praise

Matthew 6:9

THE LORD'S PRAYER is the PATTERN FOR PRAYER

9 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.

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: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

8 Pertinent Elements of Prayer

(1) Preface (v 9b): Our Father which art in heaven,

(2) Praise (v 9c): Hallowed be thy name.

(3) Preach (v 10a): Thy kingdom come.

(4) Power (v 10b): Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

(5) Provision (v 11): Give us this day our daily bread.

(6) Pardon (v 12): And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

(7) Protection (v 13a): And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

(8) Praise/Pronouncement (v 3b): For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

8 Pertinent Elements of Prayer

(1) Preface (v 9b): Our Father which art in heaven,

(2) Praise (v 9c): Hallowed be thy name.

Preface and Praise

Matthew 6:9b & c

- (1) The Adoption (v9bi)**
- (2) The Authority (v9bii)**
- (3) Reverential Worship (v9c)**

**Our Father which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.**

Apostle Paul affirms this in Galatians 4:4-7:

“But when the fulness of the time was come, **God sent forth his Son**, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that **we might receive the adoption of sons.** And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, **but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.**”

Ephesians 2:13...18

**But now in Christ Jesus ye who
sometimes were far off are
made nigh by the blood of
Christ...**

**For through Him (Christ) we
both have access by one Spirit
unto the Father.**

As the psalmist observed in psalm 8:

“When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?”

“For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with honour and glory.”

(Psalm 8:4)

“The whole Word of God is of use to direct us in prayer; but the special rule of direction is that form of prayer which Christ taught His disciples, commonly called the Lord’s Prayer.” (Shorter Catechism)

Blindness of Israel

Isaiah 64:6-7:

“But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. **And there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee**: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.”

1 Chronicles 29:10 Wherefore David blessed the LORD before all the congregation: and David said, Blessed be thou, LORD God of Israel our father, for ever and ever.

Isaiah 63:15 Look down from heaven, and behold from the habitation of thy holiness and of thy glory: where is thy zeal and thy strength, the sounding of thy bowels and of thy mercies toward me? are they restrained?

Isaiah 63:16 Doubtless thou art our father, though Abraham be ignorant of us, and Israel acknowledge us not: thou, O LORD, art our father, our redeemer; thy name is from everlasting.

Psalms 103:13 Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.

Acts 17:28 For in him
we live, and move, and
have our being; as
certain also of your own
poets have said, For we
are also his offspring.

Martin Luther, in his small catechism, explains,

“He is our true Father and we are His true children, so that we may with all boldness and confidence ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.”

Our Father which art in **heaven** ...

It is the eternal refuge
promised to the dying thief on
the cross who called upon
Jesus, “**Verily I say unto thee,
Today shalt thou be with me
in paradise**” (Luke 23:43).

Heaven's Comfort

Revelation 21:4-5 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. 5

And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new.

And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

The phrase “in heaven” refers to heaven as the centre of the universe and the seat of all authority, power, dominion and greatness. God the Father in heaven is in the seat of all authority and all power.

The psalmist in psalm 121 speaks in faith to His Maker in heaven that resides beyond the stable hills, “***I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.***”

“Let us draw near to God with all holy reverence and confidence, as children of a father, able and ready to help us; and that we should pray with and for others.”

(Shorter Catechism)

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Matthew 6:9b & c

- (1) The Adoption (v9bi)**
- (2) The Authority (v9bii)**
- (3) Reverential Worship (v9c)**

**Our Father which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.**

An Eye That Never Sleeps

There is an eye that never sleeps,

Beneath the wing of night;

There is an ear that never shuts,

When sink the beams of light;

There is an arm that never tires.

When human strength gives way;

There is a love that never fails,

When earthly loves decay.

—Selected

The word “hallowed” means “holy” or “sacred”.

“To hallow” something means to treat it as sacred and holy and worthy of the highest honour, respect and regard.

“Hallowed Be Thy Name” therefore “to hallow God’s name” is to treat Him with utmost respect.

Therefore, prayer begins with giving God reverential worship.

We do so through praise!

Westminster Shorter Catechism question 4:
What is God? **God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal
and unchangeable in His Being, wisdom,
power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth.**

God's attribute we can have in a limited way.

- (1) Being - Our Spiritual Birth
- (2) Wisdom - Our Devotional Life
- (3) Power - Our Comfort
- (4) Holiness - Our Purity
- (5) Justice - Our Hope
- (6) Goodness - Our Benevolence
- (7) Truth - Our Submission

The first three aspects of the Lord's Prayer are summed up by the first part of

Matthew 6:33: “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness.”

We are instructed to direct our attention to God the Father. We pray to the Father that His Name be hallowed, His kingdom come and His will be done.

The second part is given in the fourth petition “and all these things shall be added unto you.”

Psalm 37:4 Delight thyself also in the
LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of
thine heart.