

Prayer: The Lifeline of the Christian

Main Theme: Praise, Thanks, Trust, and Supplication is as natural to the Christian as breathing. It is the expected response to his gifts. It is the cadence of paradise restored.

I. Why is prayer necessary?

1. We are Commanded
2. We are Thankful
3. We are Dependent
4. We are invited
5. We must know our place

II. What is the manner of prayer?

1. Reverent
2. According to the word of God

III. What *do* we then pray?

1. Pray the Mission
 - Everything we need (and some wants)

IV. Pattern for prayer

- The Lord's prayer
- Daniel 9

Questions:

1. Why does the Lord grant some requests positively and not others?

What seems best to us, but the answer is no, or not now?

2. How does the martyr reconcile losing life when there are so many promises of help and rescue?

3. Is it wrong to pray for success?

Q. 134. Why is prayer necessary for Christians?

A. Because it is the chief part of thankfulness which God requires of us, and also because God gives His grace and Holy Spirit to those who with sincere groanings ask them continually of Him, and give Him thanks for them.

Q. 135. What is required for our prayers to please God and be heard by Him?

A. That we ask of the only true God, who has manifested himself in His word, all things which He has commanded to be asked of Him. This is to be done with a true affection and desire of our heart. As well, we are, through an inward feeling of our need and misery, to cast ourselves prostrate in the presence of His divine majesty and build ourselves on the sure foundation that we, though unworthy, yet for Christ's sake, are certainly heard by God, even as He has promised us in His word.

Q. 136. What are those things which God commands us to ask of Him?

A. All things necessary both for soul and body, which our Lord Jesus Christ has comprised in the prayer He taught us.

Q. 137. What prayer is that?

A. Our Father who is 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Q. 138. Are Christians tied to this very form of prayer?

A. We are not. Our Lord here delivers to his Church a brief summary of those things which we are to aske of God. Christ will have us also to ask for special things or particular benefits. The form prescribed is nothing else but a set of headings or general categories, wherein all benefits both bodily and spiritual are implied. But all particulars of prayer must agree and correspond with this general form. We are not tied to this form, as appears from James 1:5, where the Apostle exhorts the saints, if anyone lacks wisdom they should ask of God who gives to all liberally. Though these words are not in the form of prayer particularly expressed in the Lord's prayer, they are implied. Besides, we have examples of prayer both in the Old and New Testament, which are not in the form here expressed, though all they asked was comprehended in this prayer. Therefore, the form of prayer delivered to us by Christ is a thing indifferent.